~THE STRONGEST BRIDE ON EARTH~

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO

9

SHINOBU OHTAKA

The strongest bride on earth.

Sumomomo Momomo.9

Shinobu Ohtaka

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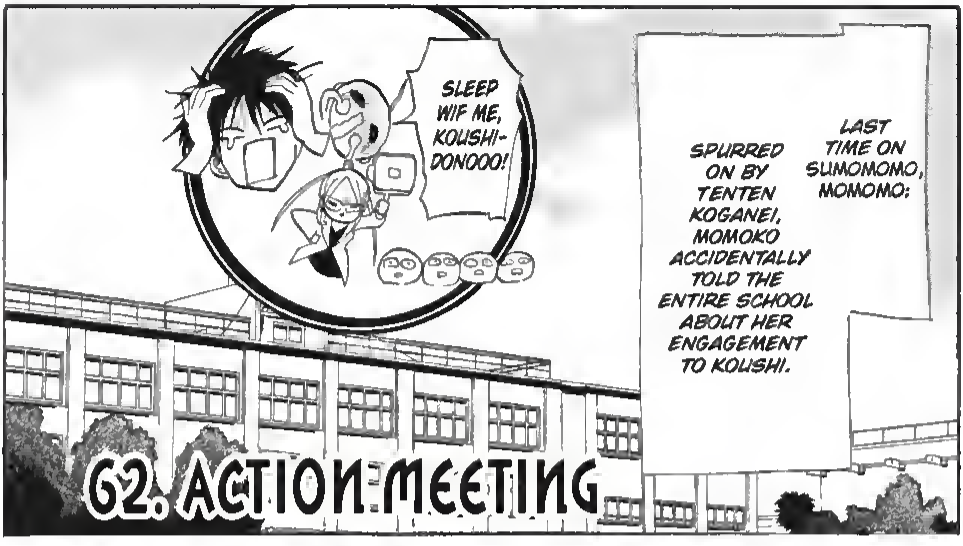
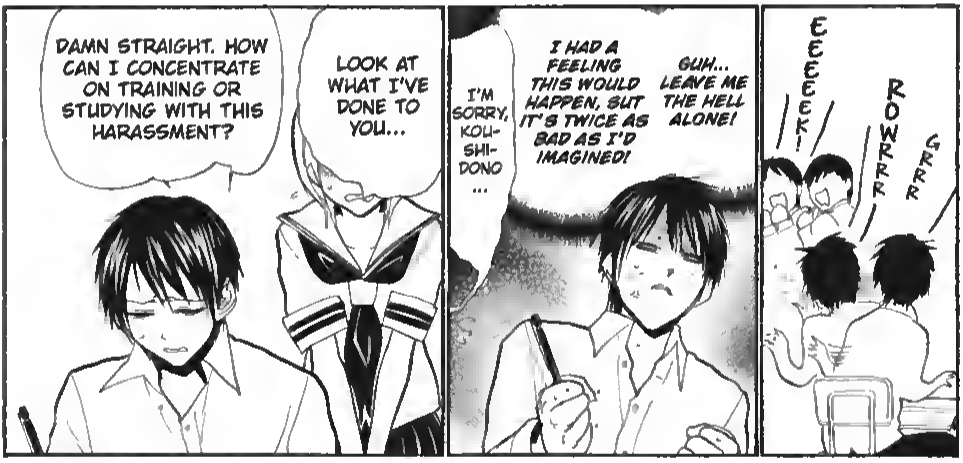
SUMOMOMO, MOMOMO


LAST TIME ON SUMOMOMO, MOMOMO:
SPURRED ON BY TENTEN KOGANEI, MOMOKO ACCIDENTALLY TOLD THE ENTIRE SCHOOL ABOUT HER ENGAGEMENT TO KOUSHI.
SLEEP WIF ME, KOUSHI-DONOOO!
62. ACTION MEETING

HEY, MOMOKO-CHAN'S FIANCÉ.
MORNING!
TRAIN-ING.
TRAIN-ING.
NEXT MORN-ING
HUP HO, HUP HO.
OUT FOR A MATRI-MONIAL MORNING JOG?
HMMM?
SORRY.

HEY, MOMOKO-CHAN'S FIANCÉ.
FIANCÉ...
FIANCÉ...
STUDY.
STUDY.

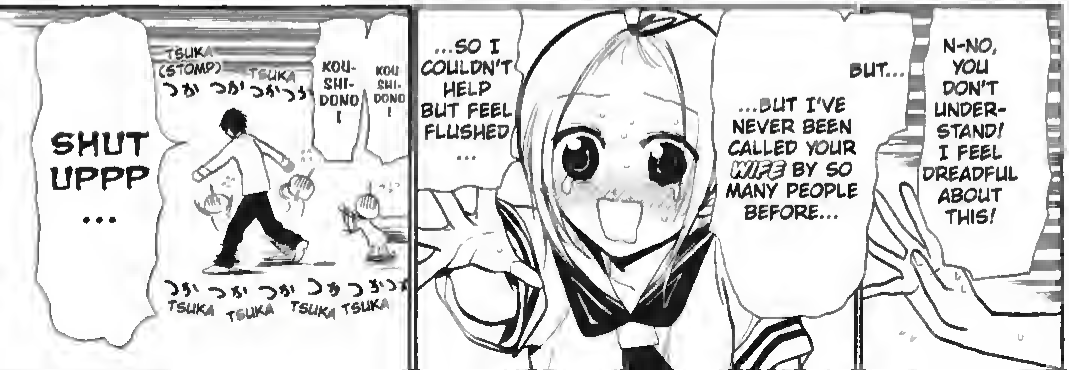
THAT'S A LIE, RIGHT?
THAT WHOLE SPIEL ABOUT LIVING CELIBATE ...
HE HAD A FIANCÉ THE WHOLE TIME!
AND NOW I KNOW!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT, "WHY DOES THIS GUY THINK HE'S ABOVE CHASIN' AFTER GIRLS LIKE THE REST OF US DO?"
YOU LUCKY DOG!
...
AGAIN...
SFX: IRA (IRK) IRA
SO SPILL THE BEANS, INU-ZUKA...
... YOU'RE A MAN LIKE THE REST OF US.


DAMN STRAIGHT. HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE ON TRAINING OR STUDYING WITH THIS HARASSMENT?
LOOK AT WHAT I'VE DONE TO YOU...
I'M SORRY, KOU-SHI-DONO ...
I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN, BUT IT'S TWICE AS BAD AS I'D IMAGINED!
GUH... LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!
EEEEEK!
ROWRR
GRRR

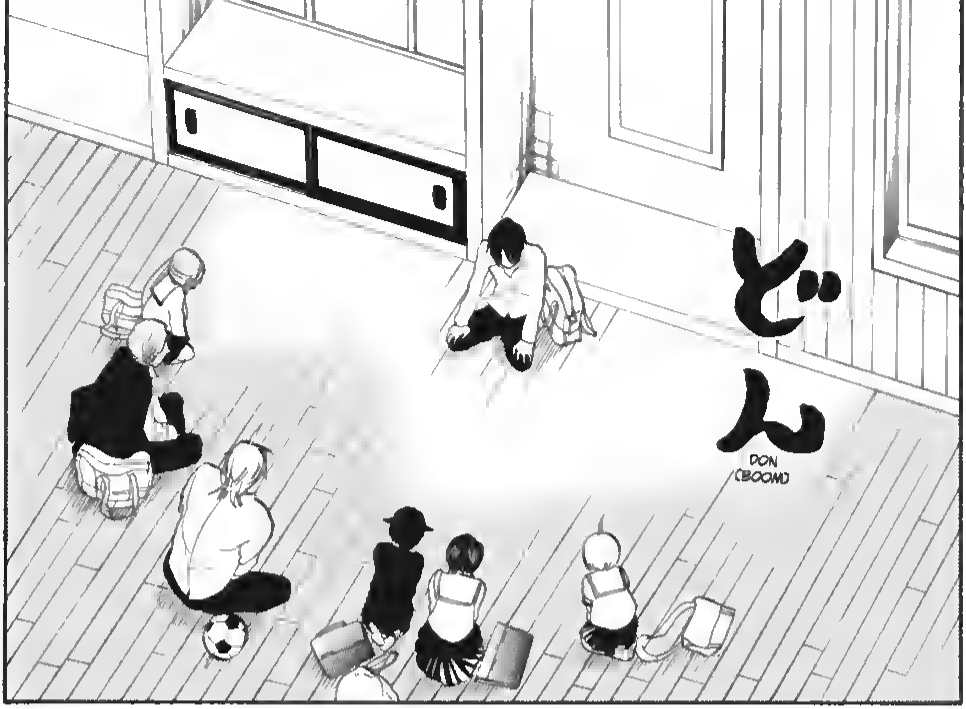
...I SUPPOSE I COULD FIND IT IN MY HEART TO...
PON (PAT)
BUT...
...IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT SORRY...
.....
I'M SO...
...SO SORRY...
SHUUN
SFX: SHUUUN (DROOP)

INU-ZUKA-KUN'S FIANCÉE!
PIKO (BLIP) PIKO
PIKO
PAA (GLOW)
FIANCÉE!!!!!

BIKU (TWITCH)
GASP!
KOOOO (WHOOSH)
THERE SHE GOES, GRINNING IT UP, AFTER THE INCREDIBLY SERIOUS DETERMINATION I HAD TO MAKE!
I CAN'T BUY YOU THROUGH THIS.
YOU HEART-LESS WENCH!
IT'S MOMOKO INUZUKA!
MOMOKO INUZUKA.
OH, STOP.
DEH HEH


SHUT UPPP ...
TSUKA (STOMP)
TSUKA
KOU-SHI-DONO!
KOU-SHI-DONO!
TSUKA TSUKA TSUKA TSUKA
...SO I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL FLUSHED ...
...BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED YOUR WIFE BY SO MANY PEOPLE BEFORE...
BUT...
N-NO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND! I FEEL DREADFUL ABOUT THIS!

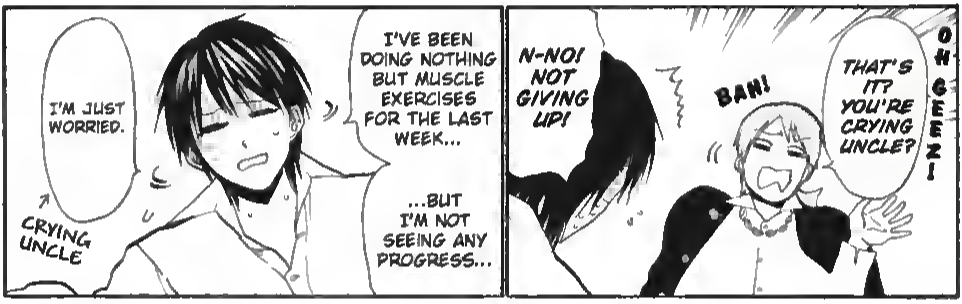
DOFU (DWOMP)
I'M ISSUING A RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST YOU AT SCHOOL!!
NO STANDING WITHIN TEN METERS OF ME!!
1om
NOOOOOO
OOOOOOO!
JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE DAY'S TASK AT HAND...
I JUST CAN'T LET THIS STUFF GET TO ME!

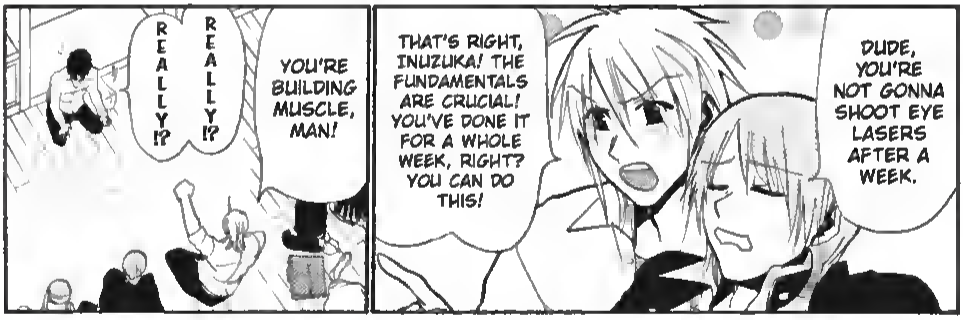

どん
DON (BOOM)

GUSU (SNIFF)
グスッ
シーン
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
.....
.....

GUYS..
...I'VE GATHERED ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY FOR JUST ONE REASON.
YOU SEE... THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY NEED TO FIND OUT.
WELL, DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, MAN.
OUT WITH IT!
RIGHT ...
SO...

AM I...
...ACTUALLY GETTING ANY STRONGER...?


I'M JUST WORRIED.
CRYING UNCLE
I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT MUSCLE EXERCISES FOR THE LAST WEEK...
...BUT I'M NOT SEEING ANY PROGRESS...
N-NO! NOT GIVING UP!
BAH!
THAT'S IT? YOU'RE CRYING UNCLE?
OH GEEZ!


YOU'RE BUILDING MUSCLE, MAN!
REALLY!?
REALLY!?
THAT'S RIGHT, INUZUKA! THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE CRUCIAL! YOU'VE DONE IT FOR A WHOLE WEEK, RIGHT? YOU CAN DO THIS!
DUDE, YOU'RE NOT GONNA SHOOT EYE LASERS AFTER A WEEK.

OOH! WHAT'S THAT?
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR THIS AGAIN.
GASHA (CLANK)
ガチャ
GASHA
REALLY!?
YES...
YOU'RE CERTAINLY LOOKING FITTER THAN YOU DID A WEEK AGO.

PUT IT ON, KOUSHI!
HUH?
ペカ
PEKAAA (SPARKLE)
THE KI-RELEASING ITEM... THE MARTIAL ARTIST IRON MAIDEN TRAINER!
武術
YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR PROG-RESS, DON'T YOU!?
DO IT!
...REALLY CAN I WEAR IT?
ARMOR: MARTIAL ARTS

IROHA-CHAN...
TRY IT OUT!
YOU NEED TO BE AS POWERFUL AS YOU CAN BE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT TENTEN-SAN'S RECENT ACTIVITIES ...

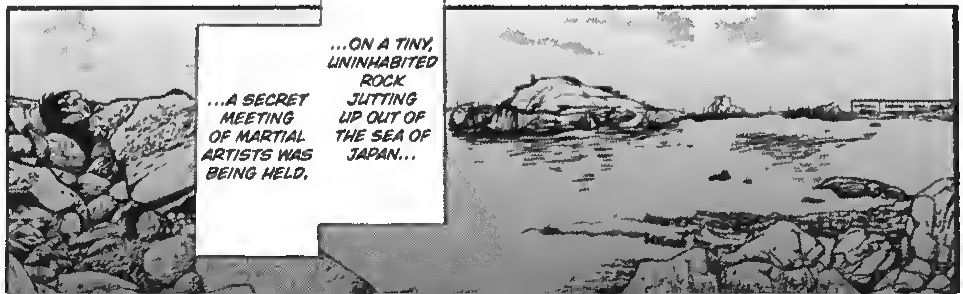
YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN, KOU-SHI-DONO!
THAT'S RIGHT, INUZUKA! YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT NOW!
I'VE SEEN YOU PUTTING PAIN-RELIEVING PACKS ON. YOU'VE DONE YOUR WORK AND DESERVE TO SEE RESULTS.
I GET A PAY RAISE TODAY. I STUCK IT OUT!

GOKU (GULP)
ガシャ…
GASHA (CLANK)
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS CEREMONY IS THE BIRTH OF "KOUSHI INUZUKA, THE MARTIAL ARTIST."
IF YOU CAN UNLEASH YOUR KI, YOU ARE WORTHY TO BE CALLED A "MARTIAL ARTIST."
WELL... GUESS I'LL TRY IT ON, THEN!
YEAH! HERE WE GO!
ほわわ…
…"MARTIAL ARTIST"!
"KOUSHI INUZUKA"
SFX HOWAWAWAWA (SPARKLE)

IF ONLY HE WERE HERE WITH US NOW!
DAMMIT.. THEY WIPED US OUT!
BWEH-HEH-HEH..
URRGH...
GAHH...
…
-HEH..

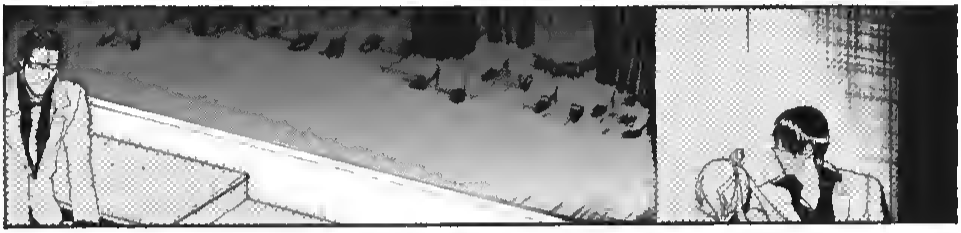
AHHH! NOT... NOT YOUUU!!
ピカ
PIKAAAA (SPARKLE)
ムギッ
MUKI (HUFF)
FDE
GOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴ…
LOOK AT YOU PEOPLE... YOU'RE HOPELESS WITHOUT MY PRESENCE!!
THAT VOICE!
OH!
WELL, SHIN-TAROU, HERE I AM.

SFX: DOKI (BADUM) DOKI



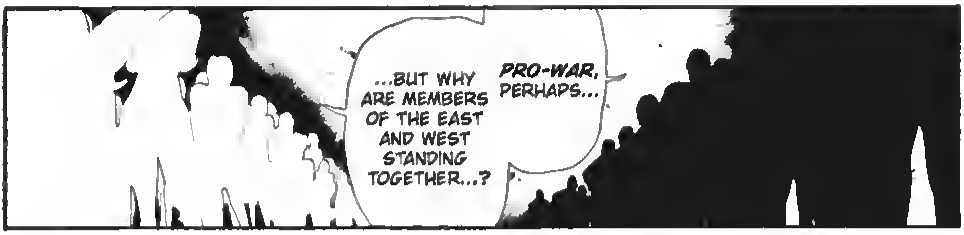
AND WHAT IS THIS... YUU-KUN?
CLEVER WORDS
FORMER ASSASSIN
TENTEN KOGANEI
BIG
YEP. NOT LIKE YOU!
SHE CERTAINLY DOES TRUST YOU, THOUGH!
PIKO PIKO
PIKO PIKO
HOW AWFUL!
LOOK AT THIS!
DRAWN BY MOMOKO
THAT'S WHAT SHE WARNED ME.
"YOU BE CAREFUL AROUND HER!"
PIKO (BIP) PIKO
FORCED TO PLAY 2P
YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND MESS WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?
OH, BUT THAT WAS ALL PART OF THE PLAN!
WINNER
LOSER
DOKAAAN (BOOM)
K.O!
lose...
ACK!
YEAH, WE'LL SEE ABOUT —

LOOK, YUU-KUN! YOUR FATHER'S SPEECH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
WH-WHY ARE YOU ATTACK-ING MEEE?



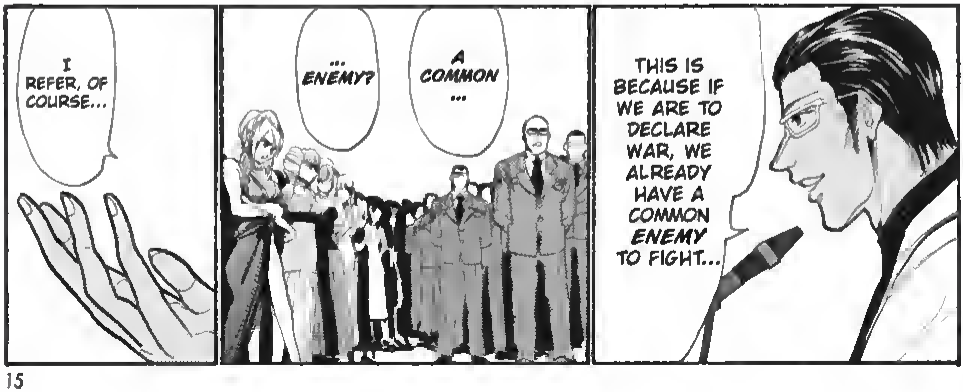
SU (SSK)

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN...
...I BELIEVE WE ALL KNOW WHY WE'VE ASSEM-BLED HERE TODAY.
AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, I AM HERE...
...TO EXPLAIN OUR STRATEGY AS THE PRO-WAR FACTION.
SHIIN (SILENCED)
...



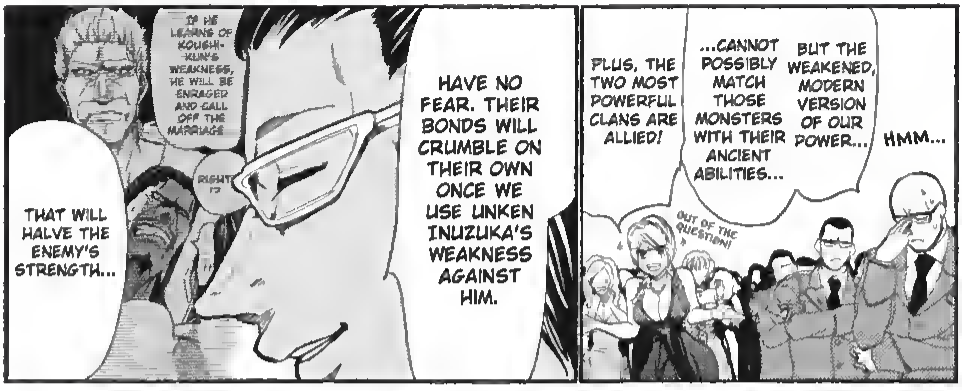
WHY ARE WE HERE STANDING NEXT TO THESE PALE-FACED SLUGS, ENDOU-SAN!
SI-LENCE, YOU CURS! WE'LL BASH YOUR BRAINS IN!
HAVE THE SAVAGES FROM THE WEST FINALLY COME TO SWEAR LOYALTY TO US?
THE THOUGHT MAKES ME SICK...
GIRO (GLARE)
WESTERN ARMY, SHOUTORA KOUNYO
KOUCHOU-RYUU
USHIGOME CLAN
EASTERN ARMY, ANIRA NYOIRIN
SHITEN-RYUU
MINOWA CLAN

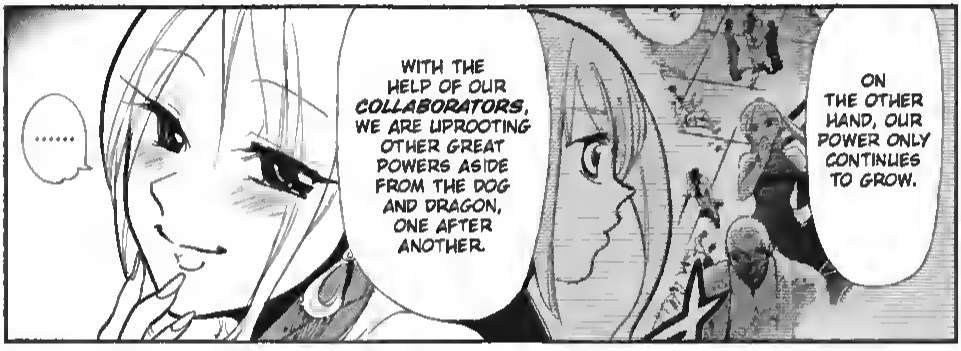
SFX: PIRI (TENSE) PIRI



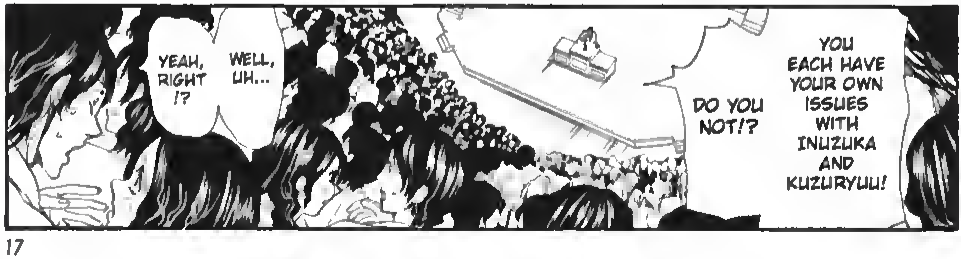
THE MURDER OF THESE TWO MEN...
...TO UNKEN INUZUKA AND SENDAYUU KUZURYUU!!
...IS OUR SHARED DUTY!!
ぽかん
POKAN (GAPE)
IT IS NONE OTHER THAN THEY —!!
...REMOVING THE HISTORY OF OUR MARTIAL ARTS FROM THE CENTER STAGE AND SEALING IT AWAY!
INUZUKA AND KUZURYUU HAVE FOCUSED SOLELY ON PEACE SINCE THE EDO PERIOD...
!!?
JUST THINK ABOUT IT!
ザワ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワザワ
I DON'T KNOW...
YEAH, BUT...
WHO ARE TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WEAKENING OF OUR PEOPLES!!

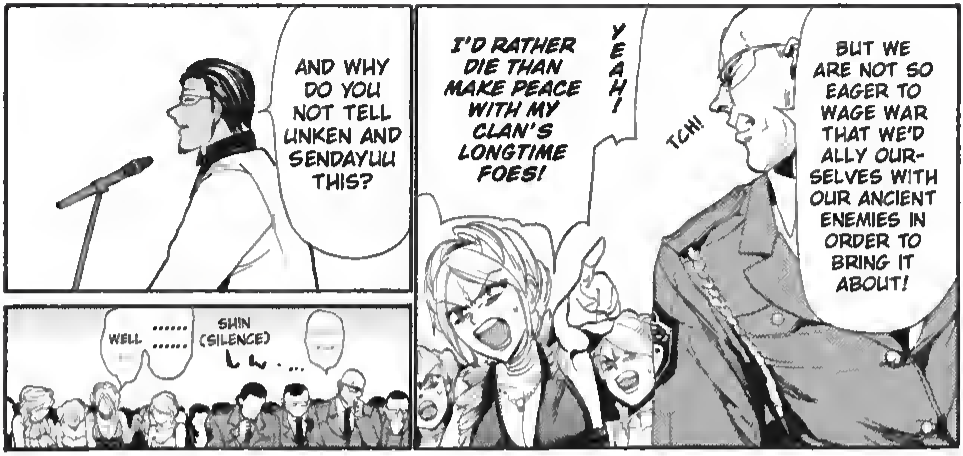
SFX: ZAWA ZAWA

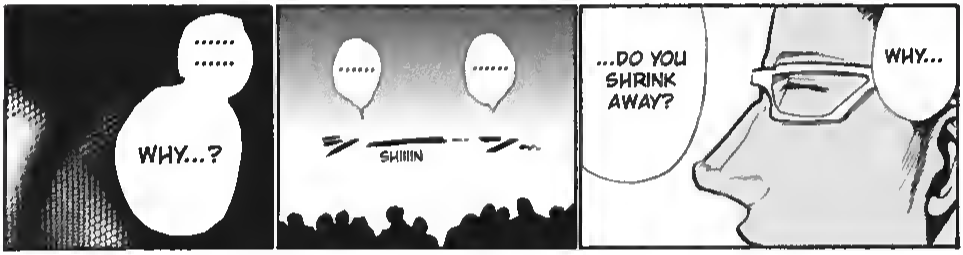

HAVE NO FEAR. THEIR BONDS WILL CRUMBLE ON THEIR OWN ONCE WE USE UNKEN INUZUKA'S WEAKNESS AGAINST HIM.
IF HE LEARNS OF KOUSHI-KUN'S WEAKNESS, HE WILL BE ENRAGED AND CALL OFF THE MARRIAGE.
RIGHT!?
THAT WILL HALVE THE ENEMY'S STRENGTH...
PLUS, THE TWO MOST POWERFUL CLANS ARE ALLIED!
...CANNOT POSSIBLY MATCH THOSE MONSTERS WITH THEIR ANCIENT ABILITIES...
BUT THE WEAKENED, MODERN VERSION OF OUR POWER...
HMM...
OUT OF THE QUESTION!!


ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR POWER ONLY CONTINUES TO GROW.
WITH THE HELP OF OUR COLLABORATORS, WE ARE UPROOTING OTHER GREAT POWERS ASIDE FROM THE DOG AND DRAGON, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
.....

NOT ONLY THAT!
THE VERY CORNER-STONE OF THEIR ALLIANCE ...
...THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN KOUSHI INUZUKA AND MOMOKO KUZURYUU, IS UNDER SEIGE BY OUR SABOTEURS!!
.....


YOU EACH HAVE YOUR OWN ISSUES WITH INUZUKA AND KUZURYUU!
DO YOU NOT!?
WELL, UH...
YEAH, RIGHT!?


AND WHY DO YOU NOT TELL LINKEN AND SENDAYUU THIS?
WELL ....
SHIN (SILENCE)
しん…
I'D RATHER DIE THAN MAKE PEACE WITH MY CLAN'S LONGTIME FOES!
YEAH!
TCH!
BUT WE ARE NOT SO EAGER TO WAGE WAR THAT WE'D ALLY OURSELVES WITH OUR ANCIENT ENEMIES IN ORDER TO BRING IT ABOUT!

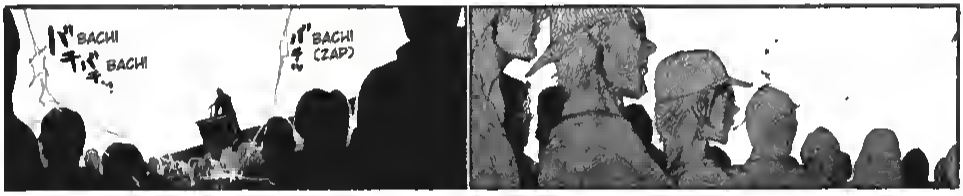

....
WHY...?
....
SHIIIN
...DO YOU SHRINK AWAY?
WHY...

WHY DO YOU NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT!?
!!
BIKU (STWITCH)
レ
ク
ッ
BAN (WHAM)

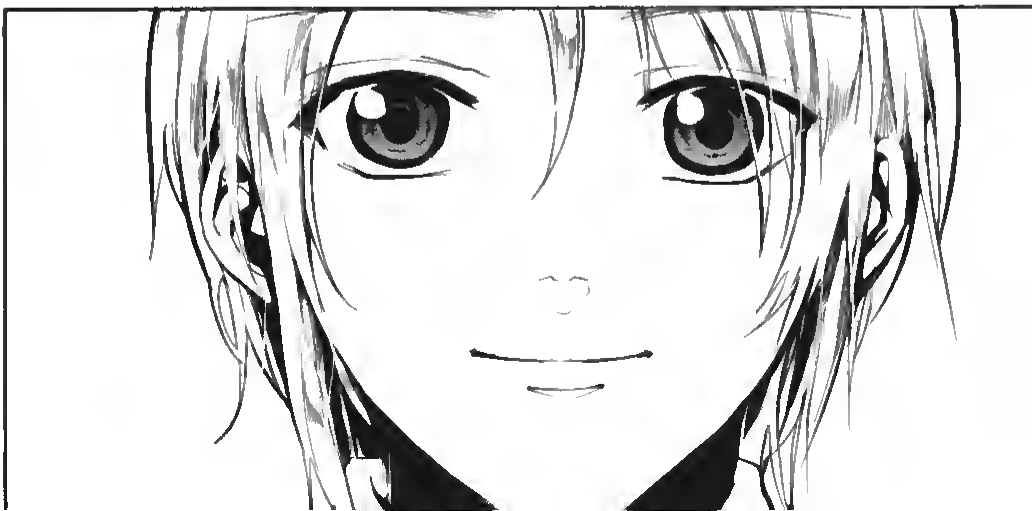
WHY DO YOU FEAR THE MIGHTY!?
IS A MARTIAL ARTIST NOT A WARRIOR!?
IS IT NOT IN OUR NATURE...
...TO STAND UP AND CHALLENGE A FOE HOWEVER POWERFUL HE IS!?
JUST AS THE ANCIENT MARTIAL ARTISTS DID!!?
BECAUSE OUR HEARTS HAVE GROWN ROTTEN...
YOU ALL SUFFER...
WHY!?
WE HAVE GROWN WEAK IN THE MODERN AGE.
KA (SNAP)
WHAT!?
...FROM THE ROTTING OF YOUR OWN PRIDE!!

.....
.....
.....!!
はっ…
HA (GASP)
CLANS THAT HAVE GROWN FOND OF TRANQUILITY AND HESITATE TO FIGHT...
.....!!
ぐっ…
GU (GRIT)
.....!!
...BUT MAKE EXCUSES FOR WHY YOU CANNOT RISK THE DANGER OF FIGHTING...
YOU HOWL AND CRY...
.....
.....
.....
YOU ARE LYING TO YOURSELVES, HIDING YOUR TRUE NATURE...
IN FACT, YOU USE YOUR PROUD AND NOBLE ARTS AS A MEANS OF MAKING MONEY.
.....
.....!...
AND YOU DO NOT FEEL THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF SHAME FOR YOUR CLANS!?
TO SHUFFLE AND SIMPER!?
TO OBEY!?
TO COWER!?
IS IT TRULY!?
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT!?

THE MIGHTY MARTIAL ARTIST BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS GROWS THIN.
IF THAT IS ACCEPT-ABLE TO YOU...
...THEN YOUR PRIDE HAS GONE SOFT AND ROTTEN!!


バチ BACHI
バチ BACHI
バチ BACHI (ZAP)

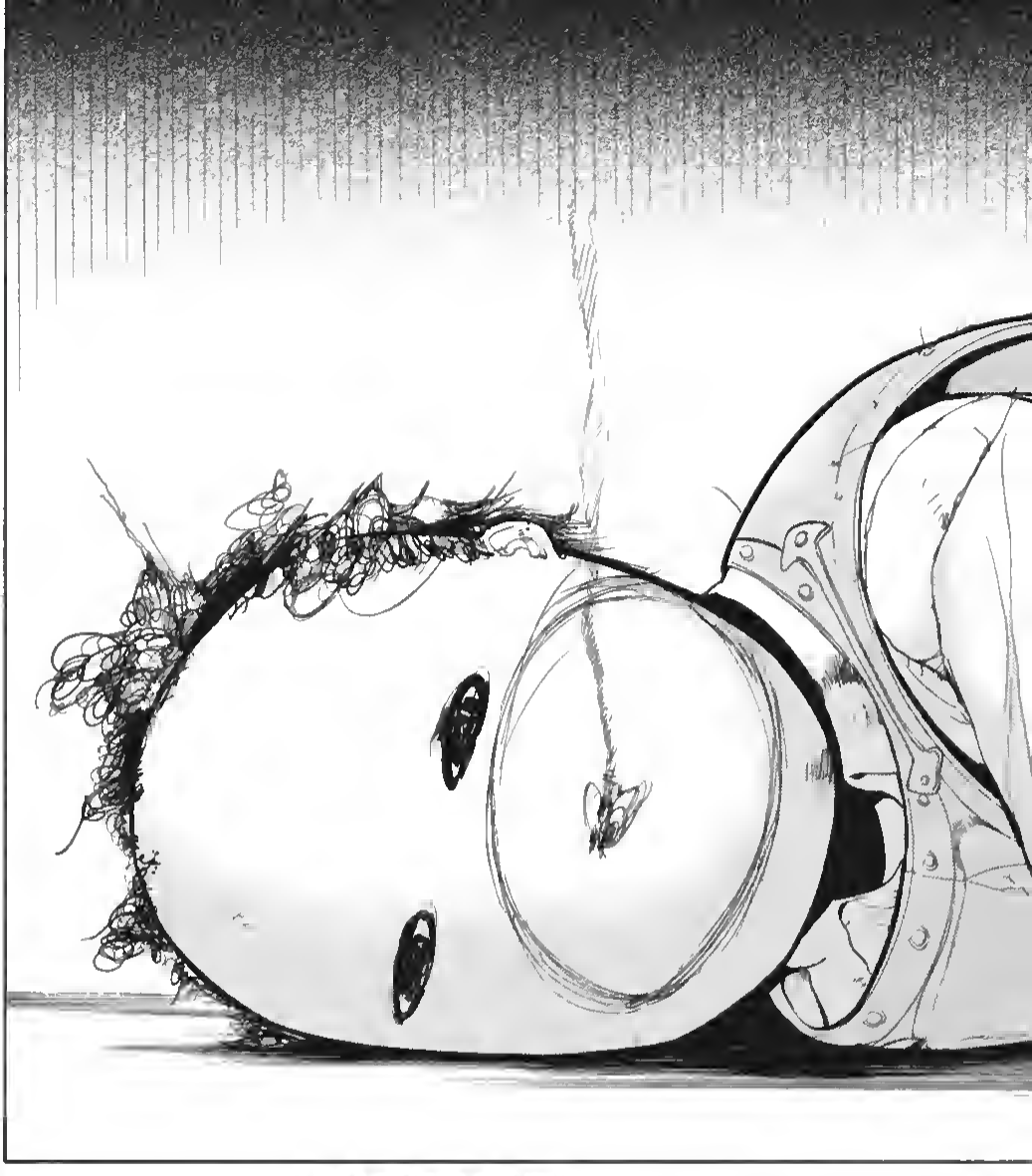
BA (WHOOSH)
THEN NOW IS THE TIME TO BARE YOUR FANGS!
I TELL YOU THIS...
...AND REJOIN THE CROWD OF NORMS...
WE TRIED TO HIDE OUR TRUE STRENGTH ...
...BUT WE'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT SENSE OF LACK AND LOSS.
WE'VE NOT GONE SOFT.
...
POWER ...
ANCIENT ...
...
ANCIENT POWER!!
...DISCOVERED THE MEANS OF RESURRECTING...
...OUR...
...AT LONG LAST ...
... BECAUSE THE ENDOU CLAN HAS...
SU (SSK)
RESUR-RECTED!?
DOYO (MURMUR)



BARI (ZAP)
BARI
GYAA (CAW)
GYAA
ZU
ZUZU (ZNNM)
ZUA (ZWAAA)

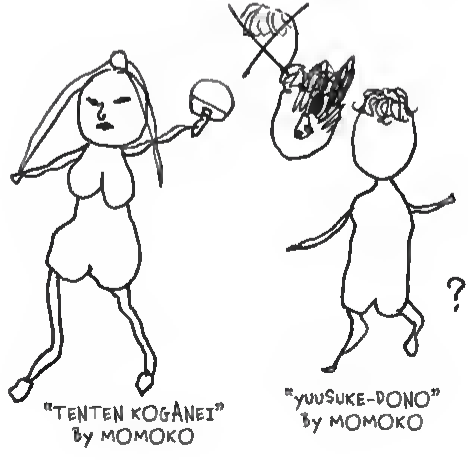
ゴゴゴゴゴ
GOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)
I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PLAN WILL BE GIVEN THE POWER OF THE ANCIENTS!!
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!!!
オオオオオ!!
OOOOO (WHOOO)
AH... AHHH...
INCRED-IBLE!!
IF WE HAVE THAT...
IF WE RECOVER THE ANCIENT POWER.
...WE CAN FIGHT BACK!!
GRR
TAKE BACK YOUR PRIDE AS MARTIAL ARTISTS !!!

SOMETHING VERY WILD'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
RAAAAH!!!
VERY EXCITING, YUU-KUN!
I'LL HAVE IROHA-CHAN...
VERY SOON, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT!
AND YOU...
...GET MO-MOKO-CHAN!
MEAN-WHILE...
...WHAT WAS KOUSHI INUZUKA DOING?
...AT THE MOMENT THE ENDOU CLAN WAS ATTEMPTING TO START A WAR...
RAHHHH!!



SFX: SHIKU (SOB) SHIKU SHIKU
HIS POWER WAS STILL AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.
YAY!!
YAY...
WAY TO GO, INU-ZUKA!
H-HEY, YOU HELD OUT FOR THIRTY SECONDS THAT TIME...
THREE SEC. LAST TIME
HE WAS EXPLOD-ING.

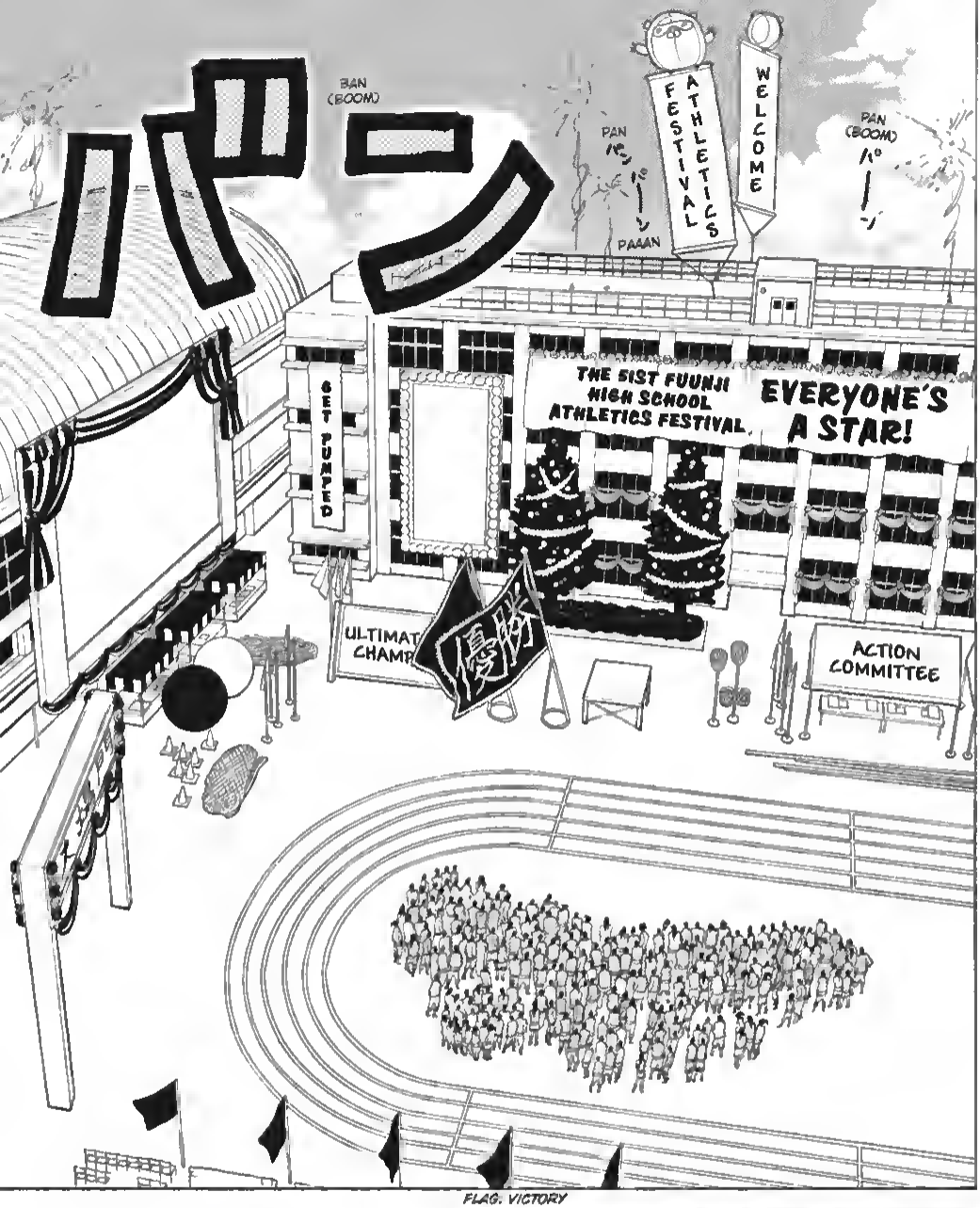
CHAPTER 62. ACTION MEETING – END


"TENTEN KOGANEI"
By MOMOKO
"yuuSUKE-DONO"
By MOMOKO
?

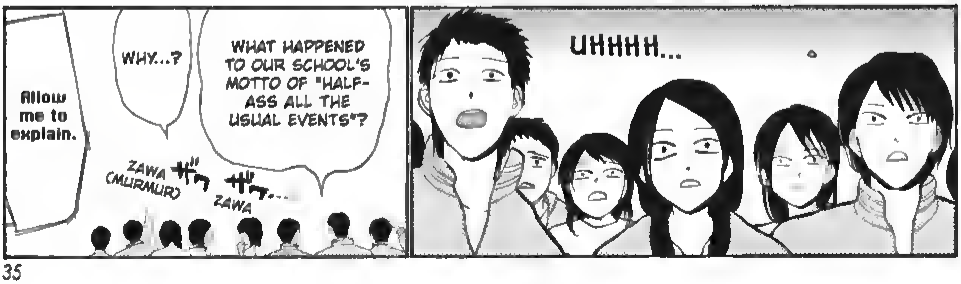
SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO

YEAH, I GUESS IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.
THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL, HUH?
FUUNJI HIGH
ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
NOTICE
...BUT NOT THIS YEAR.
WHOA!
THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL IS USUALLY A LAST-MINUTE AFFAIR WITH VERY LITTLE PREPARATION AHEAD OF TIME...
BECAUSE FUUNJI HIGH IS A FEEDER SCHOOL, THERE'S NOT MUCH EMPHASIS ON SCHOOL EVENTS.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
Wh...

63. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (1)
"FEEL THE POWER OF OUR FRIENDSHIP"

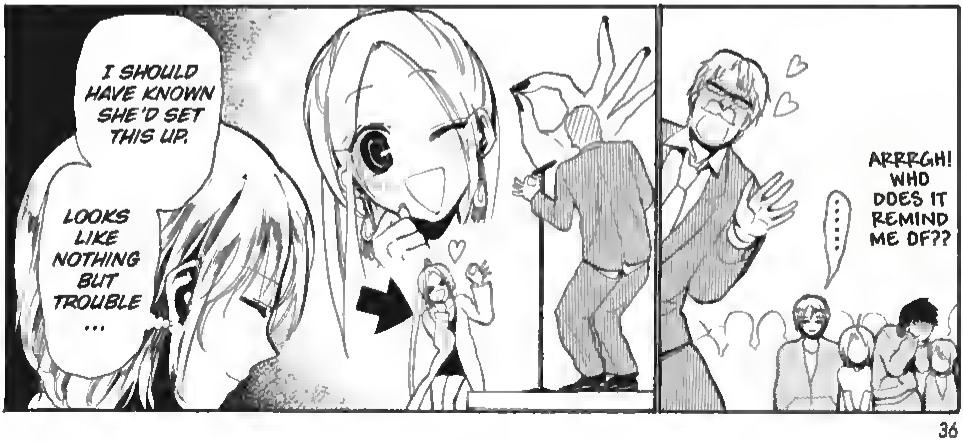


FLAG. VICTORY

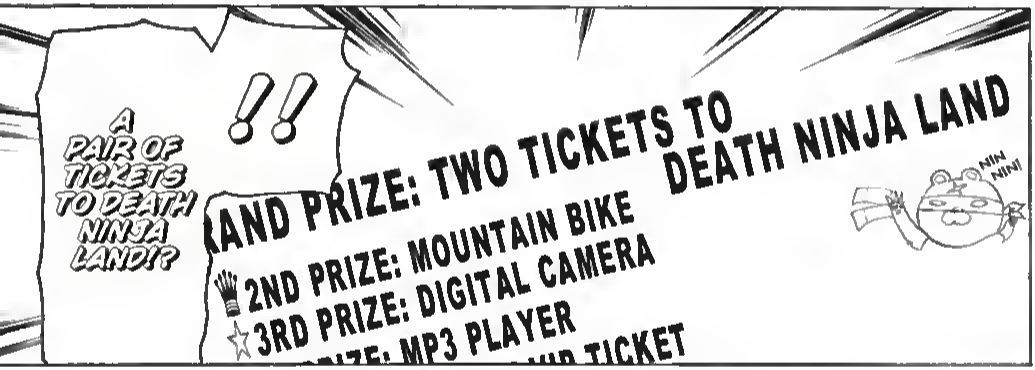


...that the treasure of one's school days...
...is indeed the blood, sweat, and tears of youth!
I finally realized...
THE PRINCIPAL...
Ahh, the wonderful activities of school life!
The memories of one's friends!
The athletics festival!

MOYA (PUFF?)
もや
MOYA
もや
THEY SEEM EERILY FAMILIAR...
HIS ACT... HIS MOVEMENTS...
WAS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SHE'D SET THIS UP.
LOOKS LIKE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE ...
ARRRGH! WHO DOES IT REMIND ME OF??

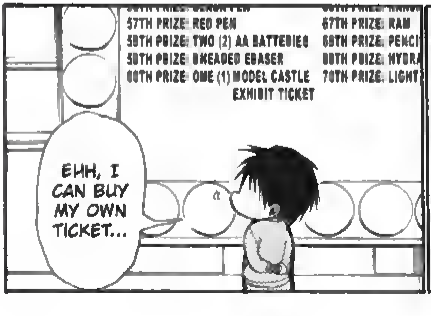
GOGOGOGOGOGOGOGO (GOOM)
WOW! LOOK WHAT THE PRINCIPAL PONIED UP!
Prizes are awarded based on your rank out of the entire school! Aim for the best ones!
Competition is individual rather than by class!
The theme of this year's event is that everyone is the star!
Let us, the action committee, explain!


A PAIR OF TICKETS TO DEATH NINJA LAND!?
!!
AND PRIZE: TWO TICKETS TO DEATH NINJA LAND
2ND PRIZE: MOUNTAIN BIKE
3RD PRIZE: DIGITAL CAMERA
NIN NIN!

HA-HA... NOT YET, SHINTAROU!
FATHER, I WANT TO VENTURE OUTSIDE!
HOORAY!
DEATH NINJA LAND
HERE!
HERE!
DEATH NINJA LAND IS A PLACE...
DEATH NINJA LAND IS A PLACE FOR...
HOT DAMN...

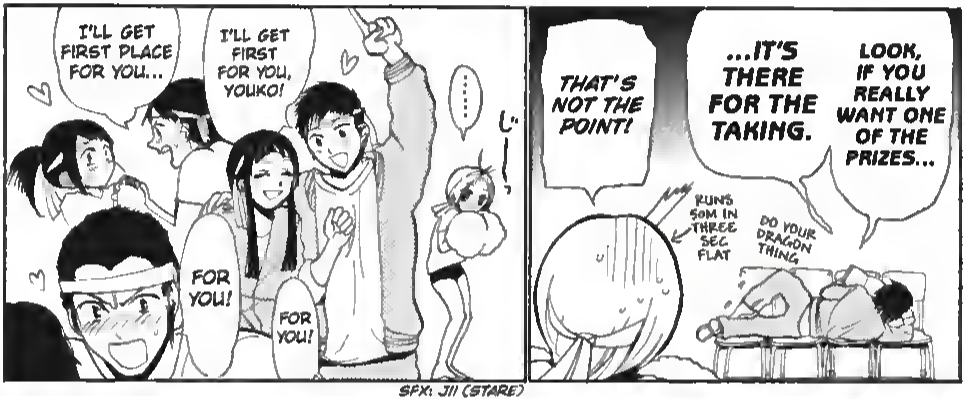
IT'S A PLACE FOR DATES...!
IT'S A PLACE FOR MEN!
...WHERE REAL MEN GO TO TRAIN...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH ME?
I DON'T WANT TO JUST THROW THEM AWAY.
SHUCKS. LOOK WHAT I WON!
HA HA...
...BUT IF THE TICKETS WERE A PRIZE...
IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO JUST INVITE A GIRL YOU'RE NOT DATING OUT OF THE BLUE...
GIGIGI (CREAK)
GO WITH ME...?
GO WITH ME?
GO WITH ME?
GIGIGI

SFX: ZUGYUUN (KABOING)

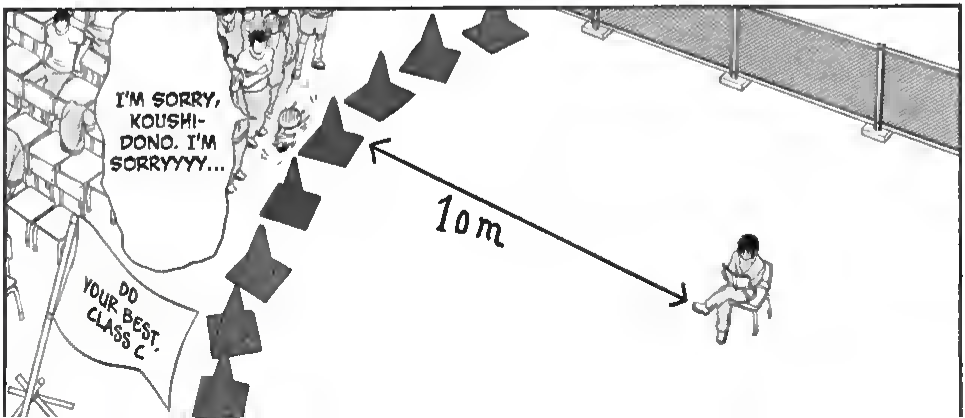

57TH PRIZE: RED PEN
58TH PRIZE: TWO (2) AA BATTERIES
59TH PRIZE: KNEADED ERASER
60TH PRIZE: ONE (1) MODEL CASTLE EXHIBIT TICKET
EHH, I CAN BUY MY OWN TICKET...

57TH PRIZE: RED PEN
58TH PRIZE: TWO (2) AA BATTERIES
59TH PRIZE: KNEADED ERASER
60TH PRIZE: ONE (1) MODEL CASTLE EXHIBIT TICKET

PAPAAN
パーン
PAAN (BANG)
パーン
IT'S REALLY NOT THE TIME TO BE HAVING FUN...
A THEME PARK...
...BUT IF WE HAD THE CHANCE...
HAA... (SIGH)
I SURE WISH INU-ZUKA-KUN...
I SURE WISH KOUSHI-ONII-CHAN...
...WOULD TAKE ME...
SFX: KUSHA (SCRUNCH) KUSHARI
ビリ (RIP)
BIRI
BIRI
HEE HEE
HA HA...
UTTORI (SWOON)
うっとり
BUSU (POP)
ブス


I'LL GET FIRST PLACE FOR YOU...
I'LL GET FIRST FOR YOU, YOUKO!
FOR YOU!
FOR YOU!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
...IT'S THERE FOR THE TAKING.
LOOK, IF YOU REALLY WANT ONE OF THE PRIZES...
RUNS 50M IN THREE SEC FLAT
DO YOUR DRAGON THING

SFX: JII (STARE)



I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE NORMS.
IT'S THE MARTIAL ARTISTS I HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR.
ESPE-CIALLY..
ACTIO
COMMI
For our first event, the boys' three-legged race!
DRAWING

...THIS ONE!
DON'T TALK TRASH NOW... IT JUST MAKES YOU LOOK WORSE WHEN YOU LOSE!
SUB-MALE SLIME... YOU DON'T DESERVE TO RACE WITH MEN!

AND NOW, ANNOUNCING OUR PAIRS!
JUST WAIT TILL I KICK YOUR ASS!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!

3
3
3
3

And start!
EVEN I CAN SEE THE NEGATIVE AURA AROUND THEM...
LOOK AT THAT DESPAIR.

もや
もや
もや
MOYA
MOYA (FLUFF)
NGH... I'D RATHER BE PAIRED WITH ANYONE BUT HIM...
...BUT THIS IS FOR THE SAKE OF MY PLAN TO FIGHT THE DEATH NINJAS WITH KOUSHI...
I CAN SEE IT NOW...
NIN NIN!
NIN NIN!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'D TRUST TO WATCH MY BACK, PAL!
HOW SILLY OF ME TO FORGET... CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW!
GIVING UP? THAT'S NOT THE SHINTAROU I KNOW!
DAMN! THERE ARE TOO MANY DEATH NINJAS!
DEATH NINJA

OKAY, HUMAN FILTH... LET'S GO!!
HEH HEH
...WE CAN OVER-COME ANY-THING, BUDDY!!
HEH HEH HEH
WITH YOU AND ME...
シャバアァァア
SHABAAAA (SHWAAA)

HOJI (PICK)
HOJI
PE (PTOO)
BISHI (TUG)
.....
.....
ZUKI (THROB)
ZUKI
ZUKI
ZUKI
ZURU (SLIP)
GUKII (CRACK)
BISHI (YANK)
W-WELL, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DRAG A NORMAL PERSON AROUND BY THE FOOT!
WHY THE HELL WOULD I EVER GO THROUGH A RACE WITH YOU!?
WHAAAT !?
GIGIGIGI (STRETCH)
You there! The race has begun!
GYAHRR!
GRAAAH!
BACH!!! (SMACK)
AH! DAMMIT!
HYOOO! (BYOING)
HA-HA-HA! THOSE DEATH NINJA TICKETS ARE MINE!
Currently in first place, Tenka Koganei and Mamoru Tetsu are only widening their lead!

HEY.
I TAKE BACK .. WHAT I JUST SAID ...
SOR-RY...
!
DEATH NINJA ..
!!
HA (GASP)
...TO MAKE ME A MAN !!
HELP ME VISIT DEATH NINJA LAND WITH NEE-SAN...
I WANT YOU...
がばっ
GABA (LURCH)
PLEASE!
HELP ME WIN THIS RACE!!
HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, THEN!
SO...HE WANTS TO GO TO THE MANLY TRAINING SPOT WITH A PARTNER AS WELL!?
...YOU CAN BE MANLY AFTER ALL...
I GUESS ...

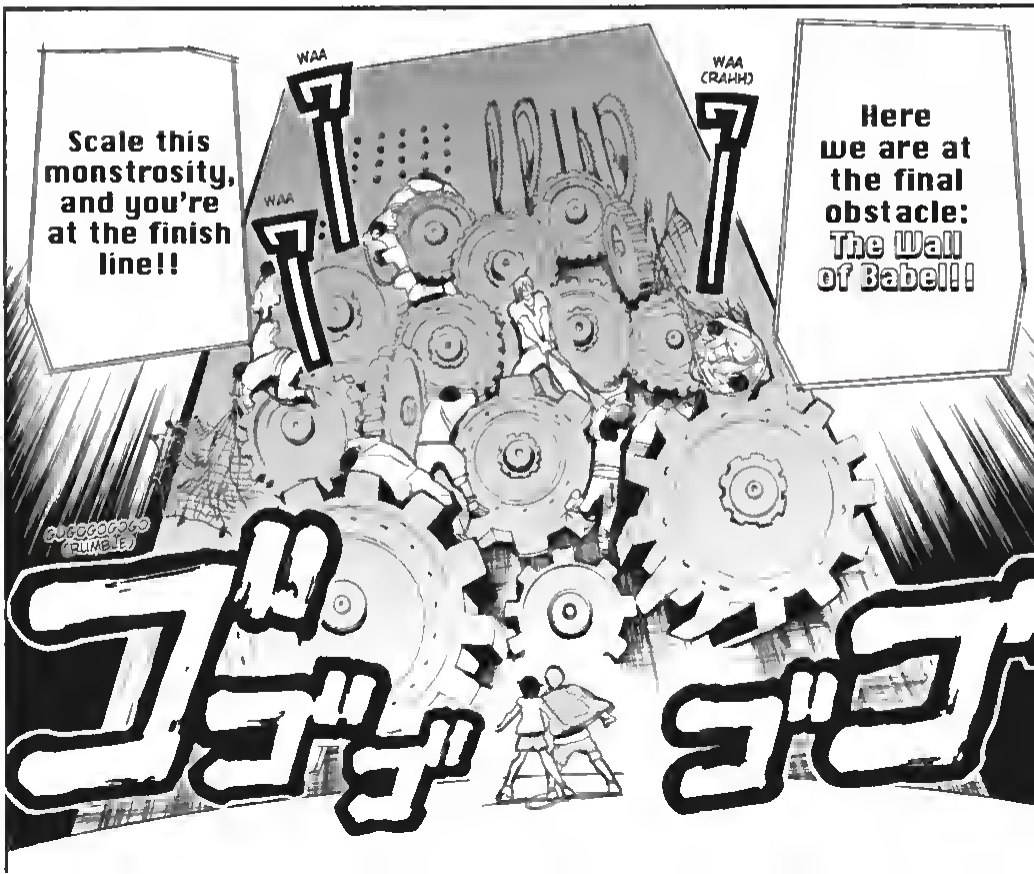
HELL, YEAH!
GYU (TUG)
ぎゅっ!!
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS... WE DO IT TO WIN!!
But they're already ten minutes behind! Can they possibly catch up?
It looks like our last-place team has finally started the race.
GASHI (GRAB)
がしっ!
GU (YANK)
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MARTIAL ARTISTS AND NORMAL PEOPLE RAISES ITS UGLY HEAD!
DAMN... HE'S FAST!
GUN (TUG)
グンッ!

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR YOU...
I HAVE SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME AS WELL!
PUI (TUG)
プイ
HEH!
FOR WHAT?
THANKS!

ANKLE? WHAT ANKLE?
IS THAT FROM THEN ...?
YOUR ANKLE ...!!
WAIT...
!!

.....
.....!!
KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ONLY ON THE GOAL AHEAD, AND YOU DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

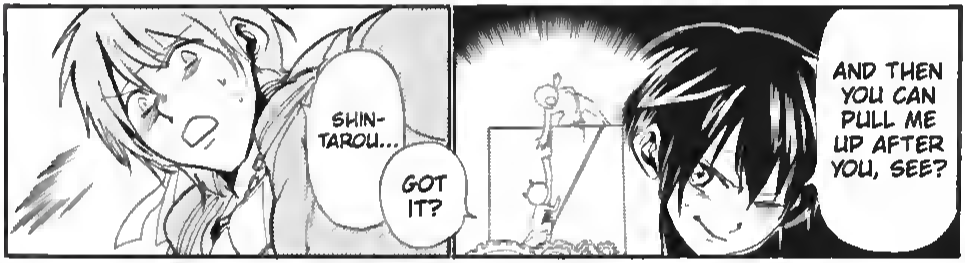
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TOTAL SLUG BEFORE...
...BUT MAYBE I WAS WRONG. MAYBE WE COULD BE FRIENDS AFTER ALL!
And now they've caught up with the pack!
Our last-place team is catching up with a mad dash!!
WHOA, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO...?
TALK ABOUT CREEPY!


Scale this monstrosity, and you're at the finish line!!
WAA
WAA
WAA (RAHH)
Here we are at the final obstacle: The Wall of Babel!!
GUGGGGGGG (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

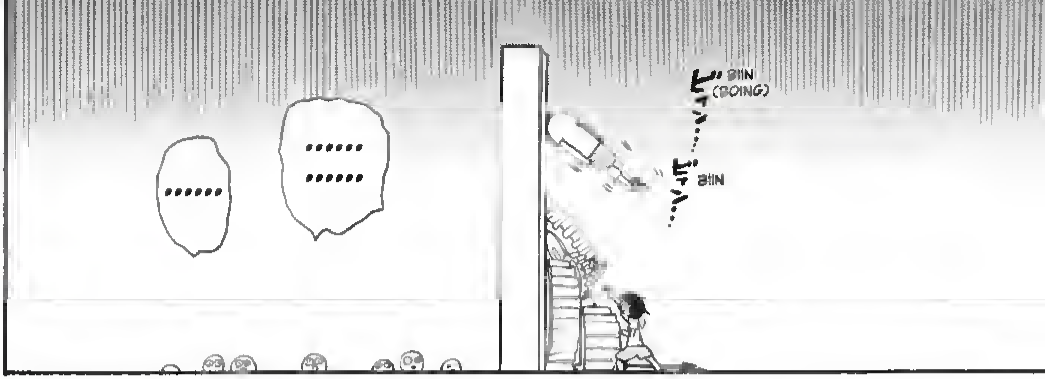
WHOA!
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS CRAP?
AND HE'S CLIMBING ON A BAD ANKLE...
GYAA
GYAA (GRAHH)
However, the many traps installed on the wall are holding the other contestants up!
AAAAH!
BEKI (CRUNCH)
BAKI
GO GO GO GO GO
ALMOST... THERE!
IT MUST BE SO PAINFUL...
SHIN-TAROU !!
YOU GO ON AHEAD... HANZOU!!
GU (STRAIN)
GU
GU
GU
GU
GICHI (CREAK)
GICHI

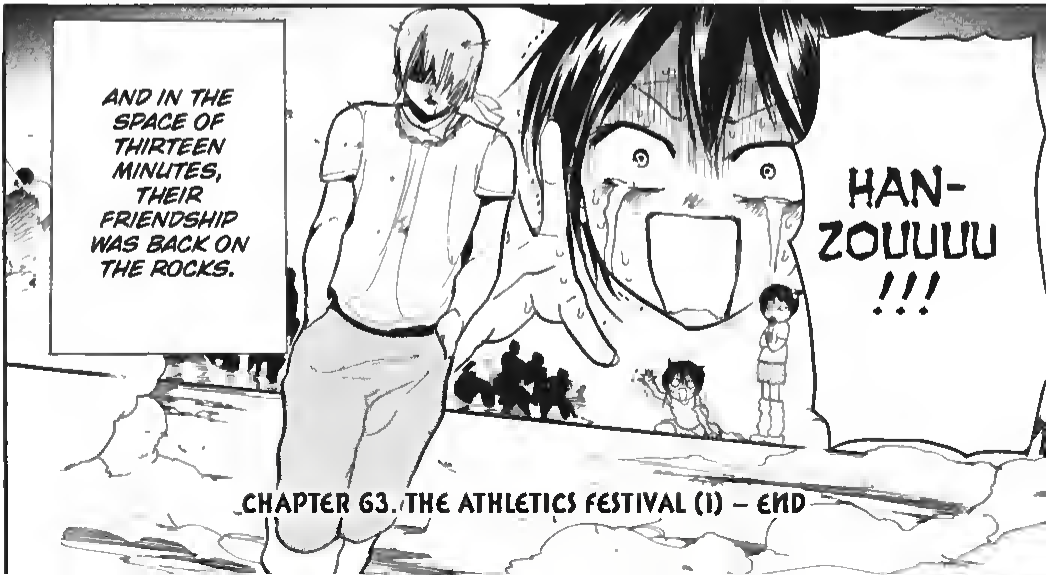
I'M GONNA TOSS YOU...
!!
...UP TO THE TOP OF THE WALL!
GASH! (GRAB)
BUT I CAN'T GET UP THERE ALL ALONE!
YOU GO...
DIAGRAM
THE ROPE HOLDING US TOGETHER IS RUBBER. IT'LL STRETCH...

SFX: BYOON (BOING)



BUN (WHOOSH)
LET THE POWER...
...OF OUR FRIENDSHIP REACH THE HEIGHTS!!!
ブチ!
BUCHI (SNAP)
.....?
シーン...
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
COME, HANZOU! PULL ME UP!!



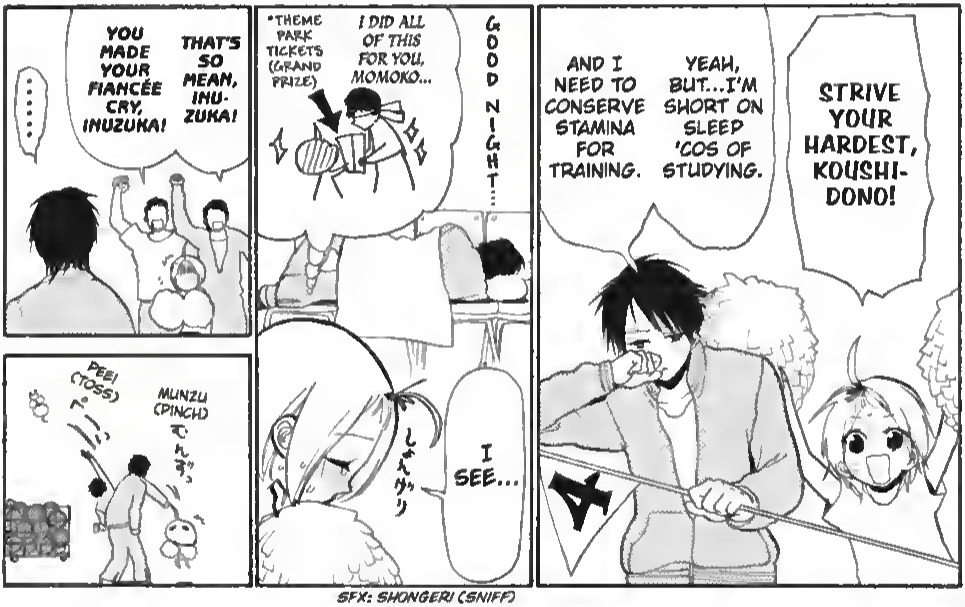


CHAPTER 63. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (1) – END

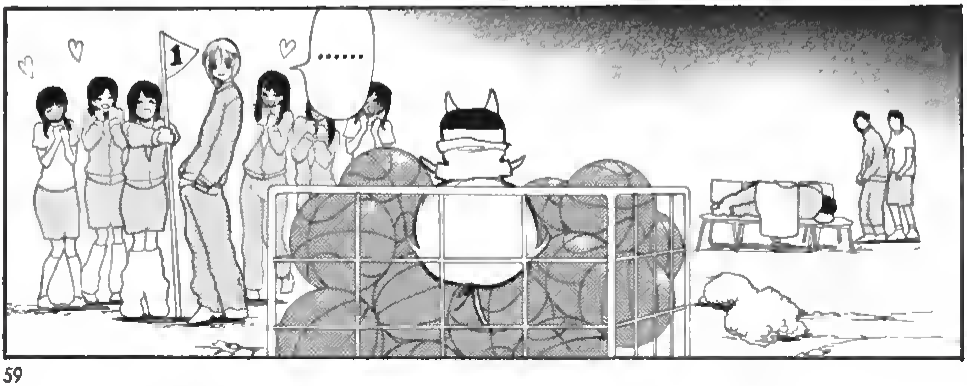
SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO

THE 51ST FUUNJI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
EVERYONE'S A STAR!
THIS YEAR'S FUUNJI HIGH ATHLETICS FESTIVAL IS AN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION WITH PRIZES.
ACTION COMMITTEE

FLAG: VICTORY


YOU MADE YOUR FIANCÉE CRY, INUZUKA!
THAT'S SO MEAN, INU-ZUKA!
*THEME PARK TICKETS (GRAND PRIZE)
I DID ALL OF THIS FOR YOU, MOMOKO...
GOOD NIGHT...
I SEE...
PEE! (TOSS)
MUNZU (PINCH)
AND I NEED TO CONSERVE STAMINA FOR TRAINING.
YEAH, BUT...I'M SHORT ON SLEEP 'COS OF STUDYING.
STRIVE YOUR HARDEST, KOUSHI-DONO!
4

SFX: SHONGERI (SNIFF)

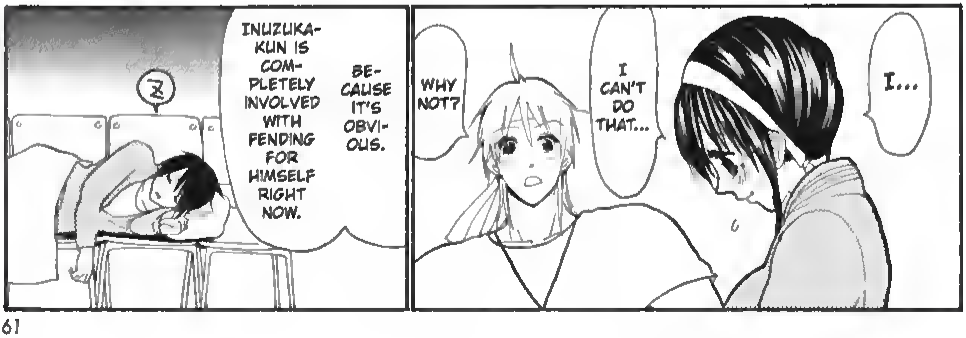


64. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (2)

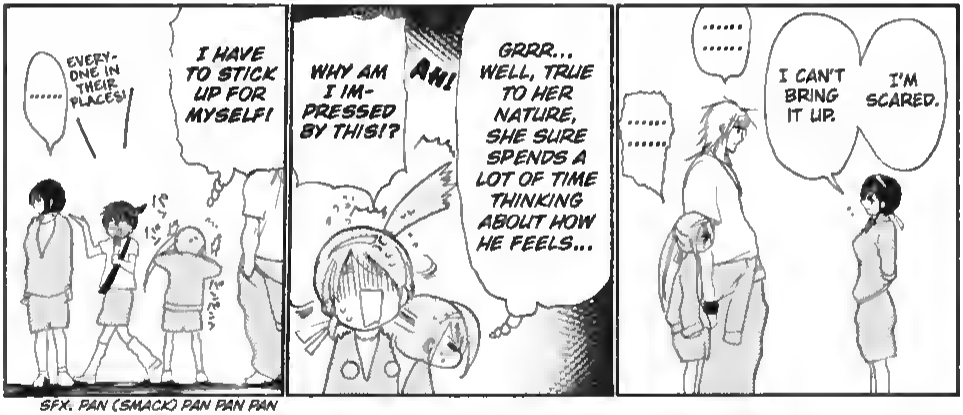
"YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY ——"

...AND THEN THEY SPEND THE ENTIRE RACE SCREWING UP EACH OTHER UNTIL THEY LOSE.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT
THEY SAY THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT BEATING THEIR RIVALS...
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID BOAR!
I ALREADY APOLOGIZED, OKAY!?

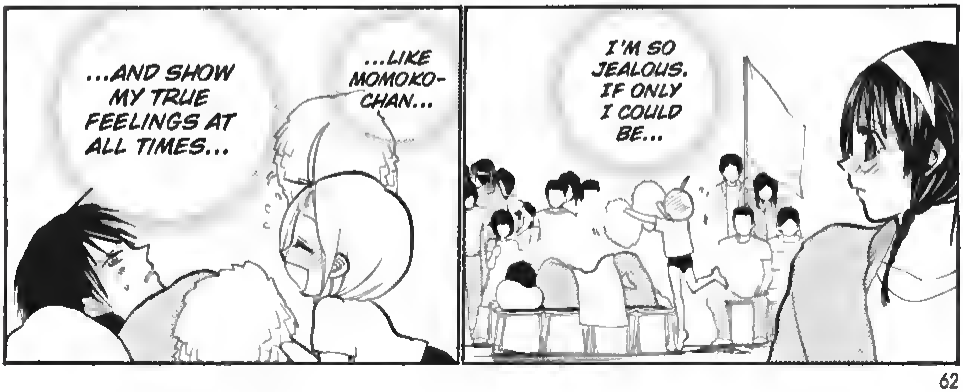
I'M GONNA WIN THOSE TICKETS AND TAKE MOMOKO TO THE THEME PARK!
I AIN'T GOIN' EASY ON ANY-ONE!
HOW'S IT GOIN', CLASS REP?
HEY!
YO!
HMPH.
YOU'RE PLAYING TOO, FOUR-EYES?
YOU WANT TO INVITE INUZUKA, RIGHT?


INUZUKA-KUN IS COM-PLETELY INVOLVED WITH FENDING FOR HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.
BE-CAUSE IT'S OBVI-OUS.
WHY NOT?
I CAN'T DO THAT...
I...

I CAN'T WASTE HIS TIME BY INVITING HIM...
...AND I'M SURE HE DOESN'T WANT ME SADDLING HIM WITH MY ISSUES...
...AND IF HE REACTED BADLY TO THE SUGGESTION...
...WELL, IT WOULD HURT.


I'M SCARED.
I CAN'T BRING IT UP.
.....
.....
.....
.....
GRRR... WELL, TRUE TO HER NATURE, SHE SURE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT HOW HE FEELS...
AH!
WHY AM I IMPRESSED BY THIS!?
I HAVE TO STICK UP FOR MYSELF!
EVERYONE IN THEIR PLACES!
.....

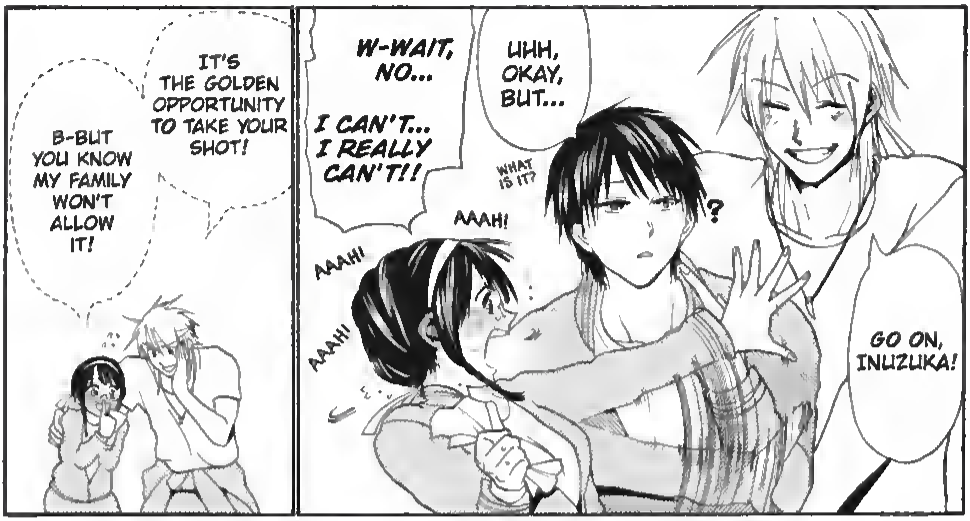
SFX. PAN (SMACK) PAN PAN PAN

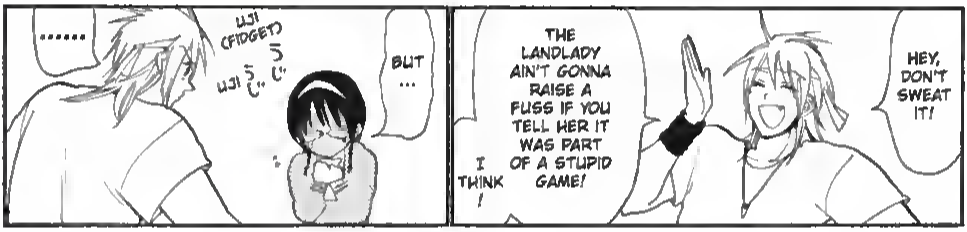


INUZUKA-KUN...
PAAN (BANG)
SO, LISTEN...
I'VE ALWAYS...
...WANTED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING...
VERY IMPORTANT... ABOUT YOU...
!!
.....
PERA (FLIP)
HUH ...!?
OOH! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!

バーン
BAAAN (BOOM)
PERSON YOU LOVE
Now find someone who fits the description on your scavenger card!
Grab his or her hand and cross the finish line!
?
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DOOO!!?
PERSON YOU LOVE
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
ドキドキドキドキドキ

Remember, if you're chosen, you can't look at the category yet!
And our contestants are busy finding the person that fits their task!
HUH? YOU NEED ME?
HA HA HA!
HEY, COME WITH MEEE!
HEE HEE HEE!
I CERTAINLY CAN'T GRAB KOUSHI-ONIICHAN WITH A CARD LIKE THIS...
WELL, MIGHT AS WELL TAKE HANZOU ALONG.
GOT A LAME ONE...
SHEESH
HEE HEE!
HA HA HA!
... HUH ?
HEE HEE!
HA HA!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO LEARN FROM THAT FOUR-EYES AND STICK UP FOR MYSELF!
ACK! WAIT!
HEE HEE HEE!
HA HA HA!
!!
PERSON YOU LOVE

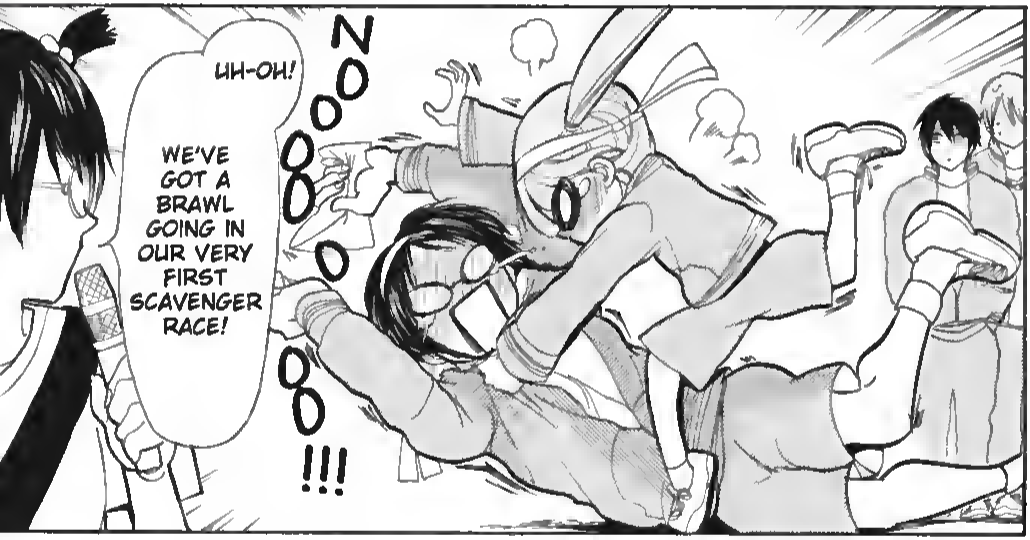

B-BUT YOU KNOW MY FAMILY WON'T ALLOW IT!
IT'S THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE YOUR SHOT!
W-WAIT, NO... I CAN'T... I REALLY CAN'T!!
UHH, OKAY, BUT...
WHAT IS IT?
AAAH!
AAAH!
AAAH!
GO ON, INUZUKA!


.....
UJI (FIDGET)
UJI
BUT ...
THE LANDLADY AIN'T GONNA RAISE A FUSS IF YOU TELL HER IT WAS PART OF A STUPID GAME!
I THINK!
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT!

...BUT IF YOU EXPLAIN THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU SPILL THE BEANS, HE'S NOT GONNA RAKE YOU OVER THE COALS, GIRL!
YOU KNOW?
IT'S OKAY TO WORRY THAT YOU MIGHT BE BURDENING HIM BY TELLING HIM HOW YOU FEEL...
BASH! (WHAP)
HEY!

じ〜っ
JIII (STARE)
?
GIVE THE GUY A LITTLE CREDIT!
はっ
HA (GASP)
INUZUKA-KUN'S USUALLY VERY NICE...
HE HAS A POINT...
ぐ〜っ
GU (CLENCH)
I CAN TELL HIM... BIT BY BIT!
GOOD LUCK!
だっ
DA (DASH)
ギュッ!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
WHAT IS THIS KILLER RAGE I FEEL...!?
WH... WHAT...?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GOGOGOGOGOGO
ン
ゴ
ゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
NGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

NGOGOGOGOGO.
(RUMBLE)
H-HERE SHE COMES!!
!!
DON
(BOOOM)
Y-YES ...?
HELLO ...?
...
TA TA TA TA
.....
EH?
BOGO (MUTTER)
...GIVE IT.
TA TA TA TA TA TA
.....
NOT HER AGAIN!!
TA (TMD)



SFX: GUGUGUGU (STRAIN)

IF ANY-ONE'S BEING SELF-ISH...
...IT'S YOU!!
WHAT!?
LOOK AT YOU!
POKO (BOP)
KYAAA!
YOU'RE THE SAME AGE AS HIM, IN THE SAME CLASS...
AND YOU'RE TALL!
AND YOU DON'T GET TREATED LIKE A CHILD!
POKA
AND YOU HAVE ALL OF THIS EXTRA MEAT ON YOU!!
BASHI (SLAP)
BASHI
BASHI
OUCH! OUCH!
TAPUN
TAPUN
TAPUN (JIGGLE)

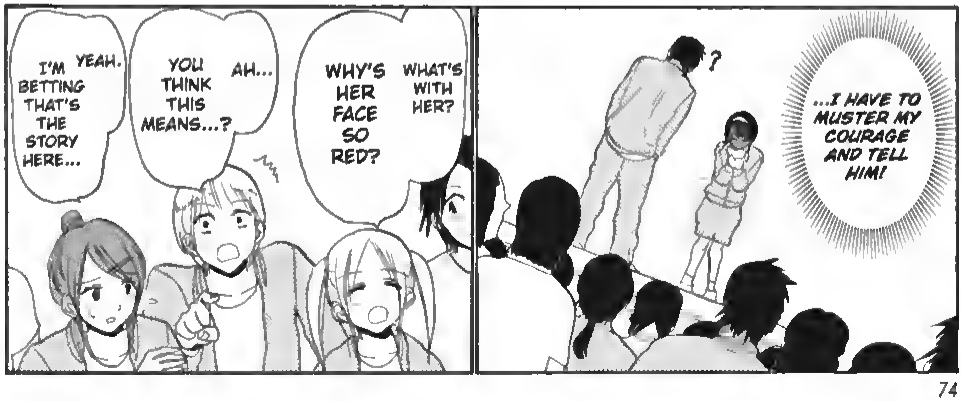
I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING ME WITH YOU!!
PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU
DAAA (DASH)
N... NEE-SAN!?
SHUTTAAAN (ZOOOM)
SU (SWISH)
HERE, I'LL LEAVE YOU MINE!
SO AT LEAST LET ME HAVE THIS CARD!
HOW CAN ONE GIRL BE SO SELF-ISH!?
I COULD EASILY TAKE THAT STUPID CARD BACK IF I USED MARTIAL ARTS...
...BUT I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY...
???
NO...
WHAT—
BA (SPIN)
NOT SO FAST!
LOOKS LIKE I WIN!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO!?

AAAAAAAAGH!
TIGER TOMA-HAWK KICK!
DOSU (DWOMP)
!
TAKE IT AND GO, CLASS REP!!
GIVE IT BACK!
HEY! THE CARD !!
SU (SWISH)
I'M GONNA WIN THIS THING AND INVITE MOMOKO!
.....
DISQUALI-FIED?
Hey you two! If you don't stop fighting, you'll be disquali-fied!

DON'T SWEAT IT! JUST GO!!
THANK YOU!
I'M SO SORRY...
I'LL MAKE THE MOST OF IT!!!
GOOOOAL!!

And so, our first-place contestant is Nakajima-san from Class 2-C!
Her partner is Inuzuka-kun, also from 2-C!
DISQUALI-FIED
YOU IDIOT!

TAKE IT AND GO, CLASS REP!!
AFTER YOU FOUGHT TO GET THE CARD BACK FOR ME...
And now it's time to show off that card!


I'M BETTING THAT'S THE STORY HERE...
YEAH.
YOU THINK THIS MEANS...?
AH...
WHY'S HER FACE SO RED?
WHAT'S WITH HER?
?
...I HAVE TO MUSTER MY COURAGE AND TELL HIM!

HUH...?
DOKI (BADUM)
ドキッ
!?
THE OLD "YOU'VE ALWAYS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME" SPEECH.
RIGHT?

カ
KAAAA (BLUSH)

SHIIIIN (SILENCE)

C...

DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
CLASS REP...?
DOKI

UMM...
SORRY
.. THIS IS SO SUDDEN
IT'S PROBABLY A BIG SHOCK TO YOU...
UH, N-NO WORRIES!
HA... HA-HA...
SHIIN (SILENCE)
INU-
ZUKA-KUN...
Y-YES?
GAKU
GAKU...
GAKU (SHIVER)
SHE CAN BARELY CONTROL HER TREMBLING ...!
.....
.....
LOOK AT INU-ZUKA.
HE'S FREAKIN' OUT!
OH NO...
BUT SHE'S EVEN WORSE ...
JUST LOOK ...
CLASS REP...
.....
.....
.....
GYUUU (SQUEEZE)

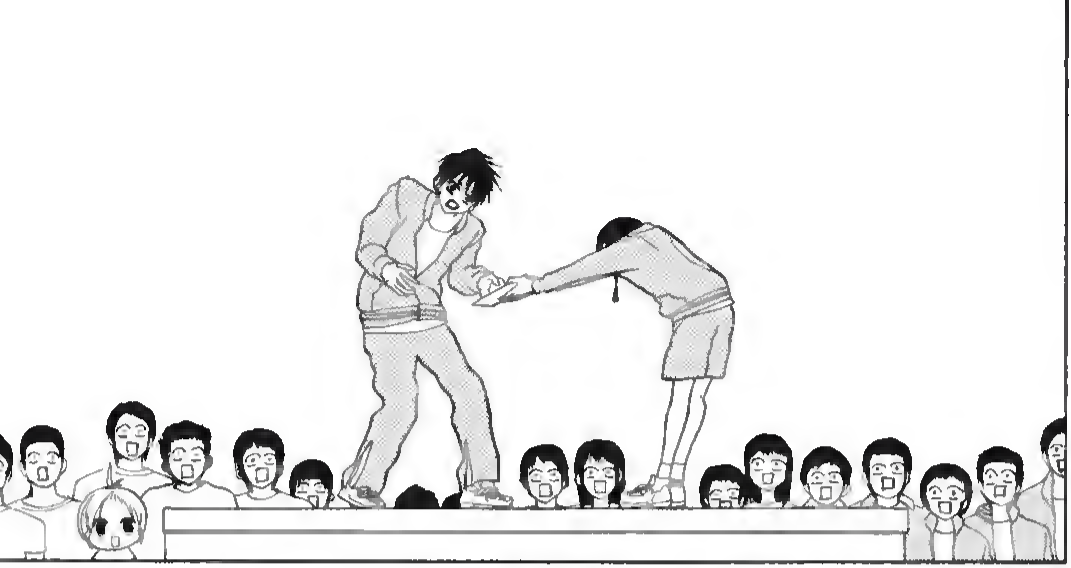
...TO ME COMPLAIN ABOUT MY HOME LIFE?
REMEMBER HOW OFTEN YOU'D LISTEN...
HUH...?
I'M LISTEN-ING.
INUZUKA-KUN...
.....!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO LISTEN.
...THANK YOU...
GYUU
...I FELT CLOSE TO YOU. CLOSER THAN A FRIEND...
...I SPENT MORE TIME AT YOUR SIDE...
AND AS...
.....
...THAT KIND-NESS OF YOURS...
I'VE ALWAYS GREATLY ADMIRED...
I'VE...
.....
.....

WILL...
WILL YOU HEAR HOW I REALLY FEEL ABOUT YOU...
.....
.....
CLASS REP...?
I REALLY AM...
...AFTER YOU CALLED ME YOUR FRIEND...
I'M SORRY TO DO THIS...

...ON THIS SINFUL, LONELY SOUL?
...WITH-OUT LOOKING DOWN...

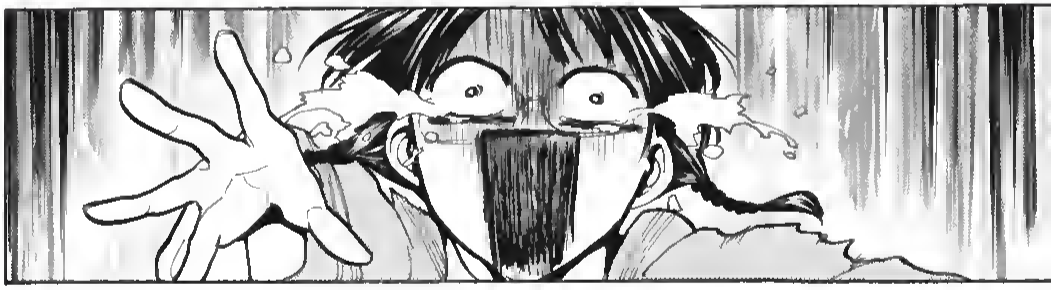
...THAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS ...
I JUST WANTED TO SAY...
INU-ZUKA-KUN!!!
Y-YES ...!
...ALWAYS, ALWAYS BEEN...
SI (THRUST)

SLAVE
...THIS !!!!



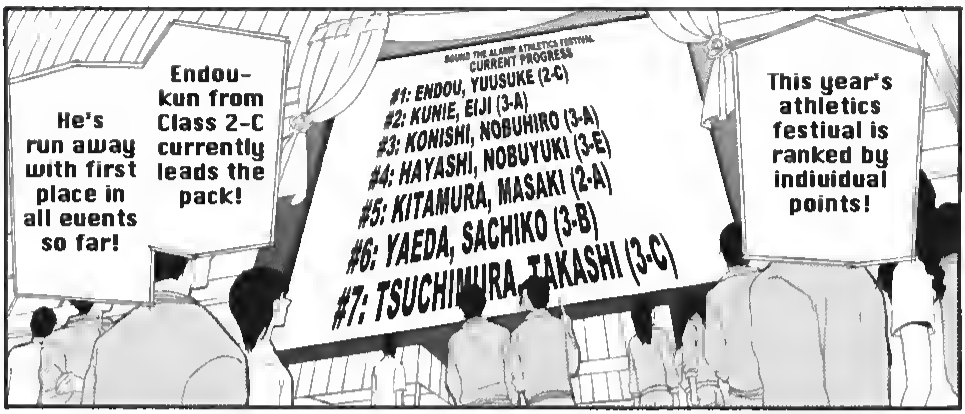
SFX: PURU (TREMBLE) PURU PURU PURU PURU

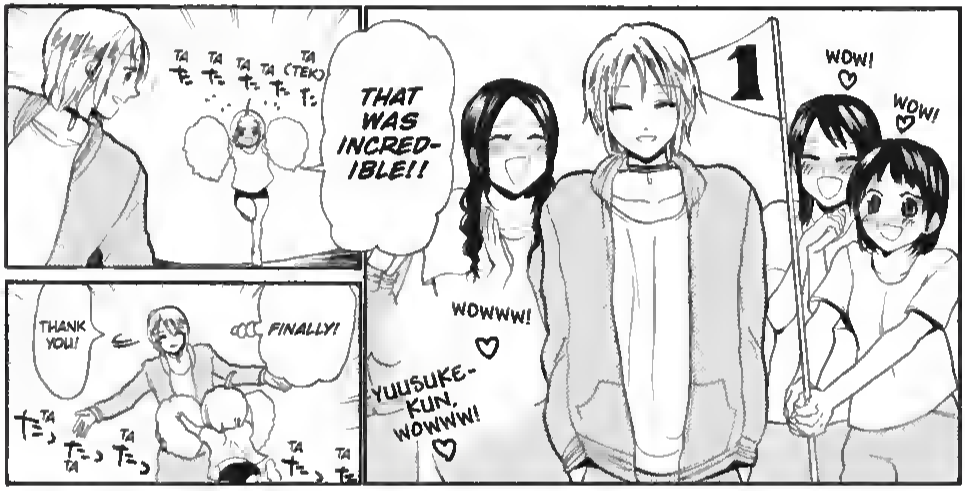
I UNDER-STAND AND OBEY...
...CLASS REP...
ペコリ
PEKORI (BOW)



*AFTERWARD, A BRUISED AND BEATEN TENKA HELPED CLEAR UP ALL THE CONFU-SION.
I'M SO SORRY, CLASS REP!!!
INUZUKA-KUN!!
THE 51ST FUUNJI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
EVERYONE'S A STAR!
CHAPTER 64. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (2) — END

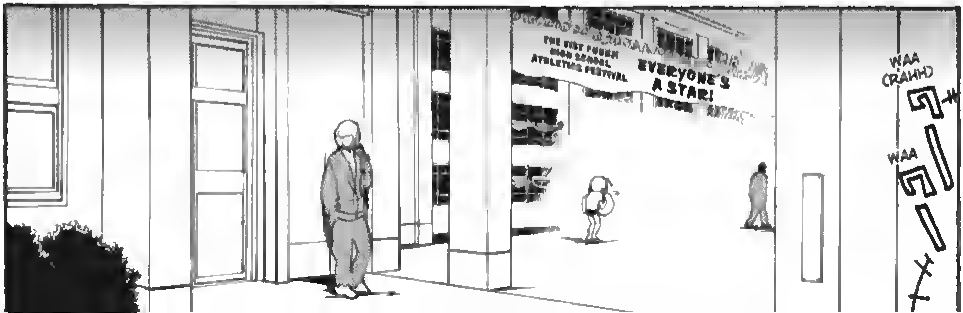
SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO


He's run away with first place in all events so far!
Endou-kun from Class 2-C currently leads the pack!
ROUND THE ALARM ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
CURRENT PROGRESS
#1: ENDOU, YUUSUKE (2-C)
#2: KUNIE, EIJI (3-A)
#3: KONISHI, NOBUHIRO (3-A)
#4: HAYASHI, NOBUYUKI (3-E)
#5: KITAMURA, MASAKI (2-A)
#6: YAEDA, SACHIKO (3-B)
#7: TSUCHIMURA, TAKASHI (3-C)
This year's athletics festival is ranked by individual points!


TA (TEK)
THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE!!
1
WOW!
WOW!
THANK YOU!
FINALLY!
WOWWW!
YUUSUKE-KUN, WOWWW!

シェバア
SHUBAA (SHWOOSH)
KYU (SHWP)
キュッ

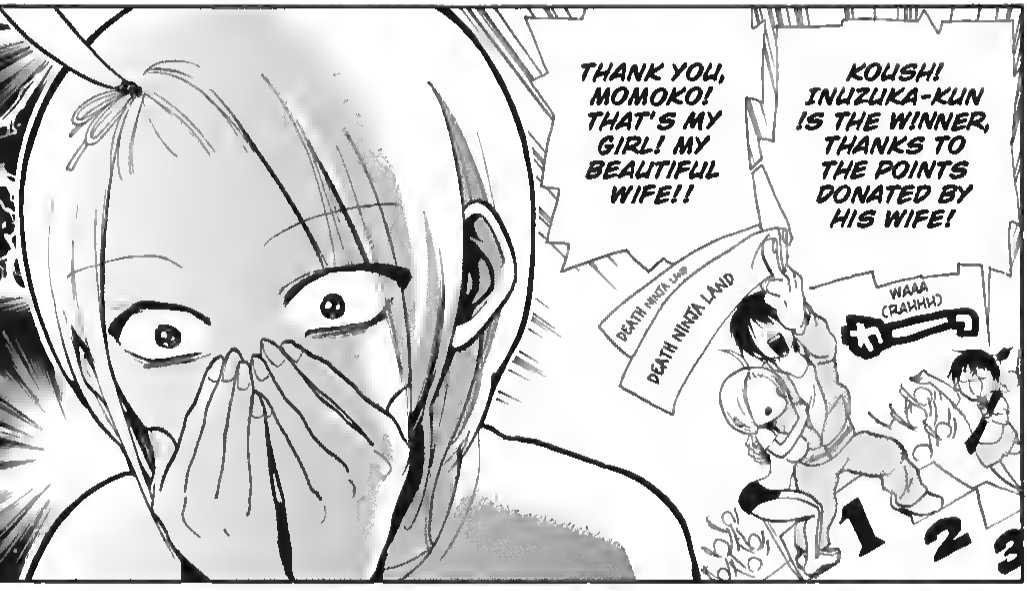
65. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (3) "STEAL ME IN THE CHICKEN FIGHT"

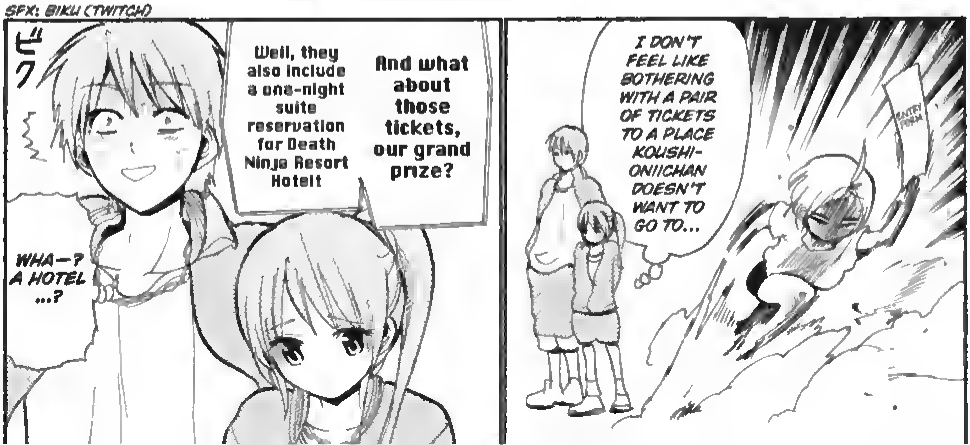


SO NAIVE, YUU-KUN...
EVEN THOUGH I'M SO MUCH BETTER...
SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN YOU AT ALL.
.....
.....
SHE WANTS AN ASSERTIVE MAN WHO WILL INVITE HER TO THE PARK!
MOMOKO-CHAN DOESN'T WANT A "BETTER" MAN!
...the chicken fight!
And now, time for the morning's final event...
THE 51ST FUUSHI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
EVERYONE'S A STAR!
LET THE NICE LADY TEACH YOU HOW TO CONQUER YOUR GIRL.

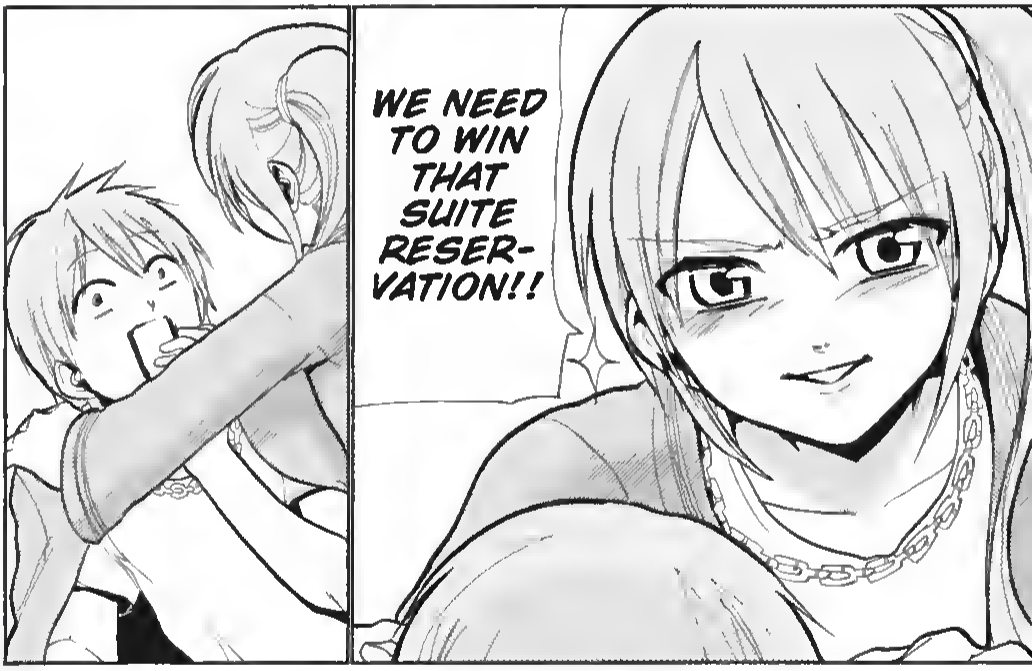
ON TOP OF THAT!
THERE IS A "SNATCHING RULE"!
HUH?
EVERY-ONE ELSE IS YOUR ENEMY!
ONE = 10 PTS
FOR EVERY HEADBAND YOU TAKE, YOU WILL BE AWARDED TEN POINTS.
FOR YOU! FOR YOU!
FOR YOU!
I'LL GRAB SOME HEAD-BANDS FOR YOU!
THEN YOU GET ALL OF THEIR HEAD-BANDS.
IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO GAIN MASSIVE POINTS!
HAS 7
GOT 1
YOU GET 7+1=8
80 PTS!
WHAT IF YOU STEAL THE HEADBAND OF A PERSON WHO'S ALREADY GRABBED SOMEONE ELSE'S?
SHIIN (SILENT)
.....
.....
DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?
PIKU (TWITCH)
...AND HAVE THE PERSON YOU WANT TO WIN "STEAL" THEM FROM YOU...
...THUS "SUPPORT-ING" THEM.
YOU CAN TAKE THE POINTS YOU'VE COLLECTED ...
SO, TO SUM UP THIS RULE...

HA-HA... I'VE GOT YOURS NOW, MOMOKO...
"STEAL THEM FROM YOU..."
"SUPPORTING THEM..."
OH NO... MINE'S BEEN STOLEN...
BUT THAT'S FINE... ALL MY POINTS BELONG TO YOU, ANYWAY...
GOSSARI (SWISH)
SHURU (WHISK)


THANK YOU, MOMOKO! THAT'S MY GIRL! MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE!!
KOUSHI INUZUKA-KUN IS THE WINNER, THANKS TO THE POINTS DONATED BY HIS WIFE!
DEATH NINJA LAND
WAAA (RAHHH)
1
2
3

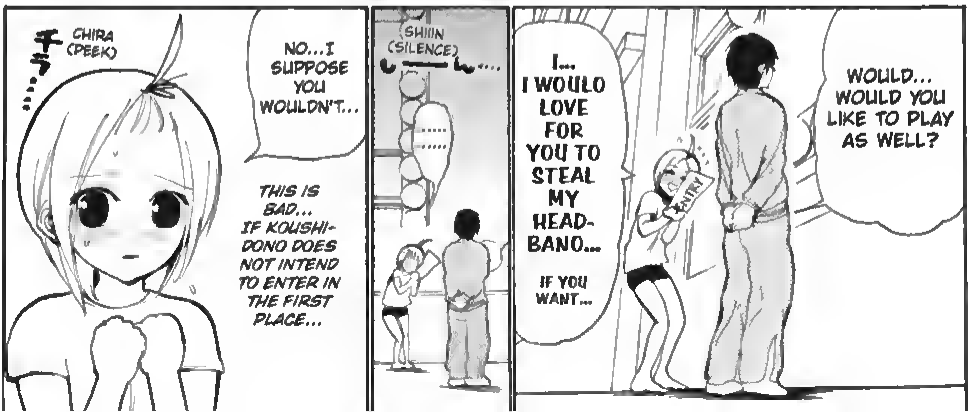

SFX: BIKU (TWITCH)
Well, they also include a one-night suite reservation for Death Ninja Resort Hotel!
And what about those tickets, our grand prize?
WHA—? A HOTEL ...?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE BOTHERING WITH A PAIR OF TICKETS TO A PLACE KOUSHI-ONIICHAN DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO...
DEATH NINJA

SFX: BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU SFX: PIKU (TWITCH)



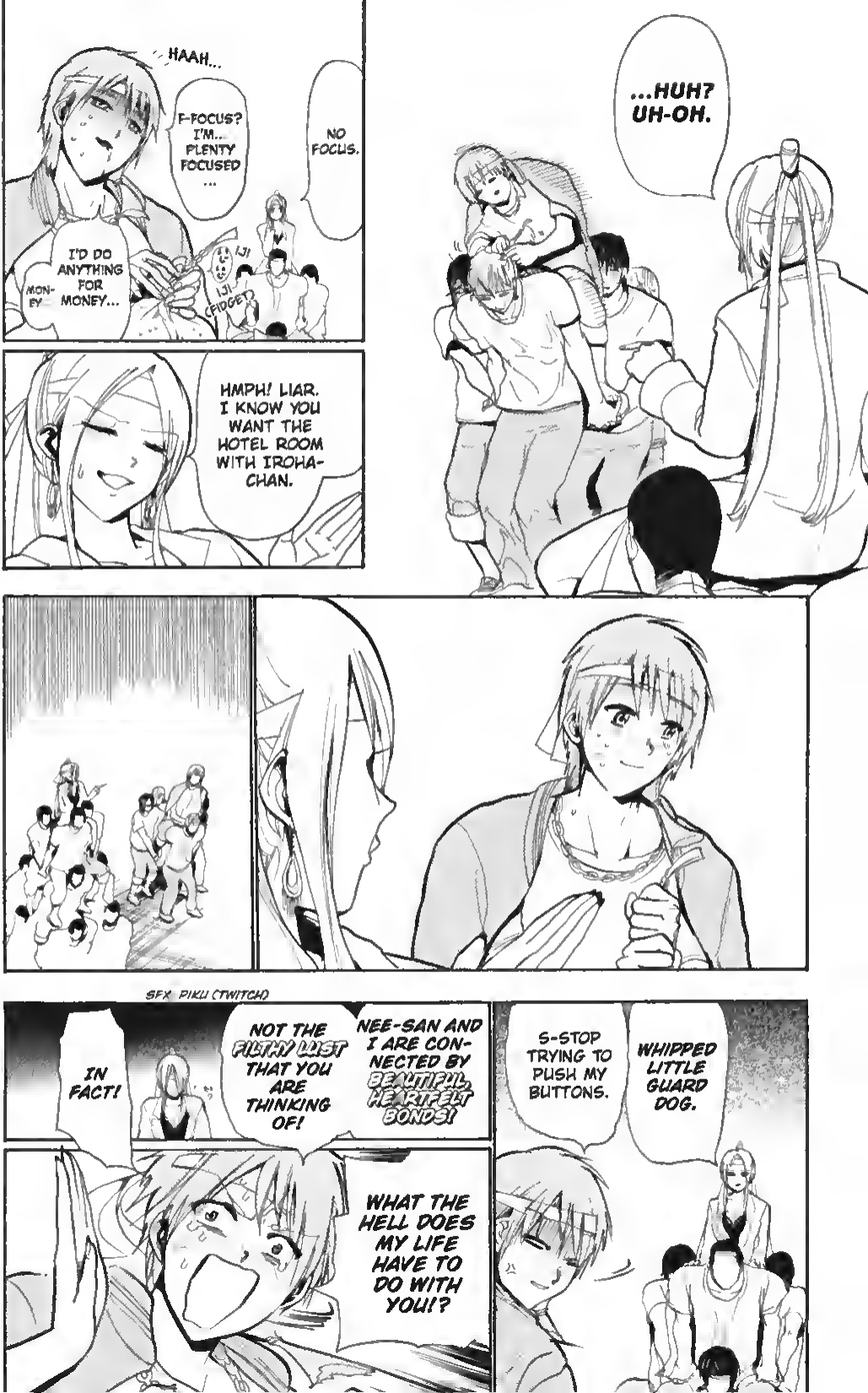
All participants in the chicken-fight event... take your places!!
ZAN (BAM)

IT'S A CHICKEN FIGHT, KOUSHI-DONO! A CHICKEN FIGHT!
ACTION COMMITTEE


CHIRA (PEEK)
NO...I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T...
THIS IS BAD... IF KOUSHI-DONO DOES NOT INTEND TO ENTER IN THE FIRST PLACE...
SHIIN (SILENCE)
I... I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO STEAL MY HEAD-BAND...
IF YOU WANT...
KATA!
WOULD... WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY AS WELL?

ACTION COMMITTEE
GU (STRETCH)
GU
GU
SO, YOU'RE HANDING OUT YOUR POINTS?
WELL... I FEEL A LITTLE INTERESTED IN PLAYING NOW...
IS THIS... MOTIVATION I DETECT FROM HIM...!?
MOTIVATION
SFX. MUN (ZMM) MUN
ENTRY
KYUUUN (TWINGE)
...I'LL STEAL THEM FROM YOU. IF YOU WANT.
WAA
WAA (RAHHH)
Now start!!
GLADLY!!

YOU MUST TAKE MINE! YOU MUST, KOUSHI-OONO, YOU MUST!
We've got a few competitors making an early play for the lead: Miyamoto-san from 1-B and Endou-kun and Kuzuryuu-san from 2-C...
YOU WERE MOST IMPER-TINANT THE LAST TIME WE TALKED... HAN-ZOU-KUN...
IF YOU'RE PLAYING, I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU.
HO HO HO HO HO!
DOOOON (BOOOM)
Faculty head-bands are worth 50 points!
...there are teach-ers in the game too!
And just to throw a little bonus in there...
ZUSHIIIN (STOMP)
ZUSHIIIN
ズシーン!
ズシーン!
HE-WHAT'S THAT?


HAAH...
F-FOCUS? I'M... PLENTY FOCUSED...
NO FOCUS.
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY...
MON-EY
IJI
IJI (FIDGET)
...HUH? UH-OH.
HMPH! LIAR. I KNOW YOU WANT THE HOTEL ROOM WITH IROHA-CHAN.
SFX: PIKU (TWITCH)
IN FACT!
NOT THE FILTHY LUST THAT YOU ARE THINKING OF!
NEE-SAN AND I ARE CONNECTED BY BEAUTIFUL HEARTFELT BONDS!
WHAT THE HELL DOES MY LIFE HAVE TO DO WITH YOU!?
S-STOP TRYING TO PUSH MY BUTTONS.
WHIPPED LITTLE GUARD DOG.

BATSUIN (SMACK)
!?
It's surulival of the fittest out there! Riders are dropping one by one!
GEEEZ!!
WHAT THE HELL!!?
WH-WHAAT!?
YOU CASTRATED HOUSE PET !!!
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOUR-SELF, YOU LITTLE CLOWN!

WE'LL BE ABLE TO JUMP INTO FIRST PLACE!
I THINK WE'VE GOT MOST OF THE HEAD-BANDS.
!?
NOT SO FAST.
YOU'RE AMAZING, MOMOKO-CHAN! NOBODY CAN STOP YOU!

BA (WHOOSH)
SHUBA (WHAK)
GA (THUD)
GA
GA
GA
GA
BA
BA
BA
BA

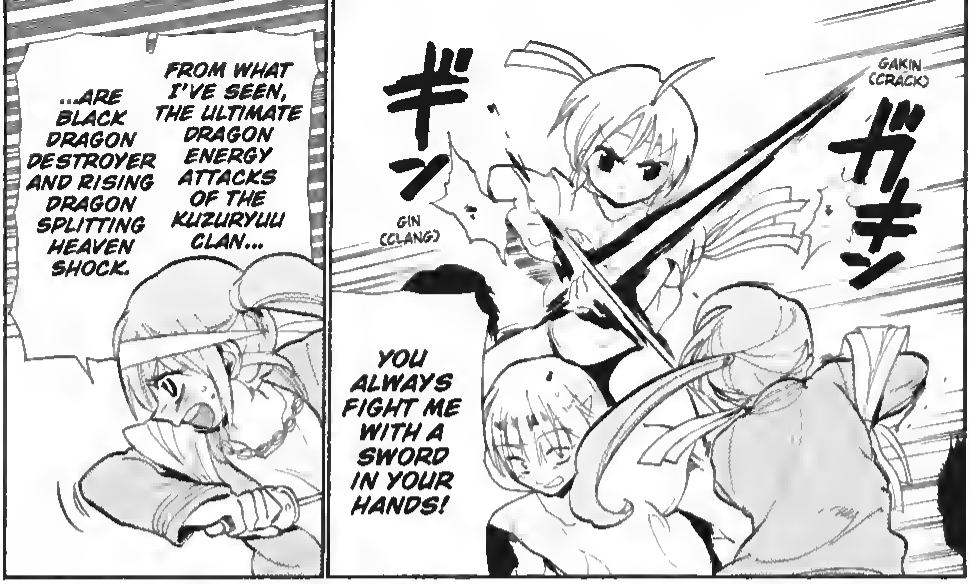
GAKKIIIN
(CRACK)
AND SO WE BATTLE THIS WAY...
...FOR THE SECOND TIME...
...SENPAI!

I'M AFRAID I MUST TAKE YOUR HEAD-BANDS!
IROHA MIYA-MOTO IS READY FOR BATTLE!!
DON (BOOM)

ACTION COMMITTEE
ACTION COMMITTEE
ビュウ ウウゥ…
SYUUU (WHOOOSH)

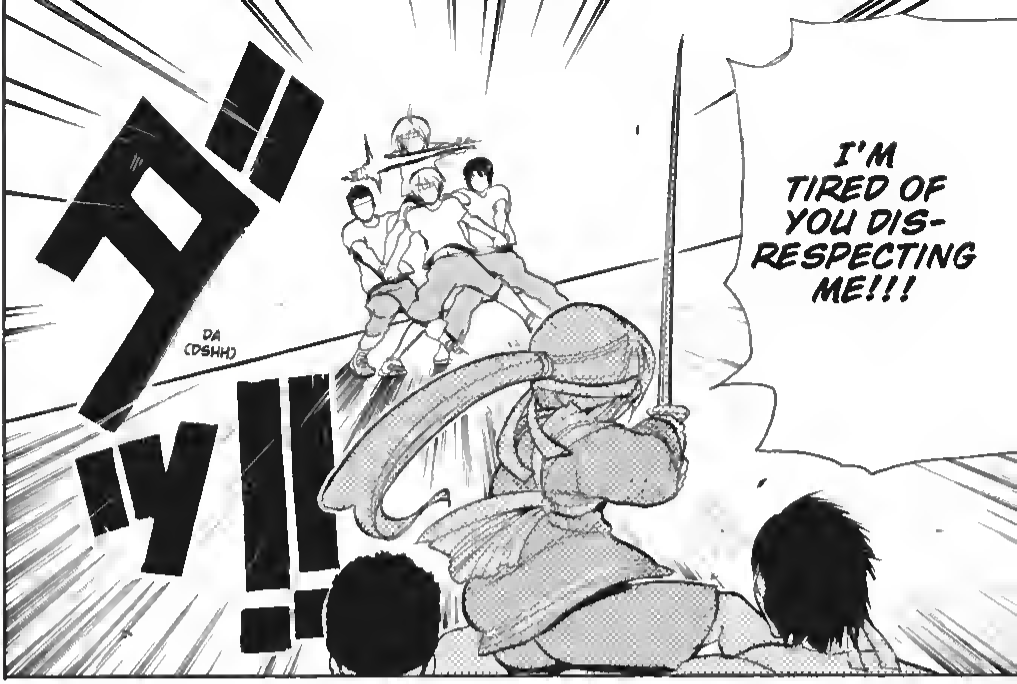
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DOKO
(DUMPA)
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ
I HAVE BEEN SECRETLY AWAITING THIS DAY...
THE DAY OF OUR REMATCH!

PASHI (SNAG)
MY SWORD...?
HYU (WHISH)
YOU'VE ALWAYS ...
...BEEN SO CONFIDENT...
LET US BEGIN.
THE MIYAMOTO CLAN CAN ONLY UNLEASH ITS SPECIAL ATTACKS WITH WEAPONS, CORRECT?
SFX: GU (CLENCH)
...BUT I'LL TAKE THAT TOO!!
SU (SWISH)
KIIN (FLASH)


...ARE BLACK DRAGON DESTROYER AND RISING DRAGON SPLITTING HEAVEN SHOCK.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THE ULTIMATE DRAGON ENERGY ATTACKS OF THE KUZURYUU CLAN...
ギン
GIN (CLANG)
ガキン
GAKIN (CRACK)
YOU ALWAYS FIGHT ME WITH A SWORD IN YOUR HANDS!

GIIN (CLINING)
キーン!!
DOU (BWOOM)
SO USE THEM INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MATCH MY STYLE!

WHY DON'T YOU TURN MY ATTACKS BACK AT ME!?
WHERE ARE YOUR DRAGONS!?
But with every shock-wave...
...Kuzu-ryuu-san deflects it up-ward!
Miyamoto-san attacks repeatedly from long range!

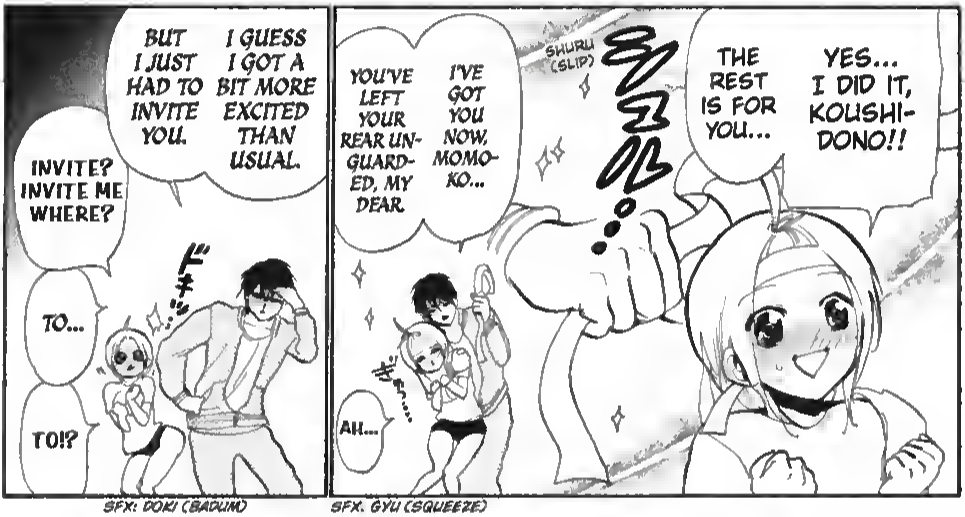

I'M TIRED OF YOU DIS-RESPECTING ME!!!
DA (DSHH)

!!HHAA!

ZUBAAA (KABOOM)

...I CANNOT TURN MY DRAGONS UPON YOU.
IROHA-DONO...
HARARI (FLAP)
!!!
KOUSHI-DONO IS AT YOUR BACK...
I HAVE LOST THE FIGHT...
I NEVER PAID ATTENTION... I CARED FOR NOTHING BUT MYSELF...
SO THE REASON SHE NEVER ATTACKED ME...WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS CONCERNED FOR KOUSHI-SENPAI'S SAFETY!?

GURA (WOBBLE)
And the battle is over! 2-C's Kuzuryuu-san reigns triumphant!
DOU (THUD)
...AND LOST AS A WOMAN...


BUT I JUST HAD TO INVITE YOU.
I GUESS I GOT A BIT MORE EXCITED THAN USUAL.
INVITE? INVITE ME WHERE?
TO...
TO!?
SFX: DOKI (BADUM)
YOU'VE LEFT YOUR REAR UNGUARDED, MY DEAR.
I'VE GOT YOU NOW, MOMOKO...
AH...
SHURU (SLIP)
THE REST IS FOR YOU...
YES... I DID IT, KOUSHI-DONO!!
SFX: GYU (SQUEEZE)

!!
YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF UNGUARDED, MY DEAR.
SHURU
TO THE THEME PARK, THE PARADISE OF ALL LOVERS, YOUNG AND OLD!!
Oh, what a turnaround! Who just removed Kuzuryuu-san's headband from behind!?

It's Yuusuke Endou-kuuuun!!!
HEH HEH!
GOTCHA.
BAAAAAN (BOOOM)
...WILL YOU GO TO THE THEME—
IF I WIN FIRST PRIZE...
BUT I'VE BEEN DYING TO INVITE YOU.
HA HA HA.
SORRY, GUESS I GOT TOO EXCITED.

GABIIN
CDOCHO
ガビーン…

GABIIIN
ガビーン…
……
……
……
…
HUH?
ガビーン…
GABIIIN
ガビーン…
GABIIIN
ガビーン…
GABIIIN
GABIN
ガビン
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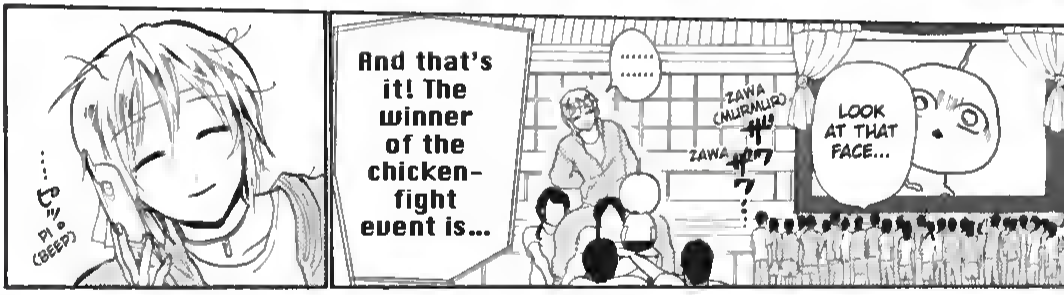
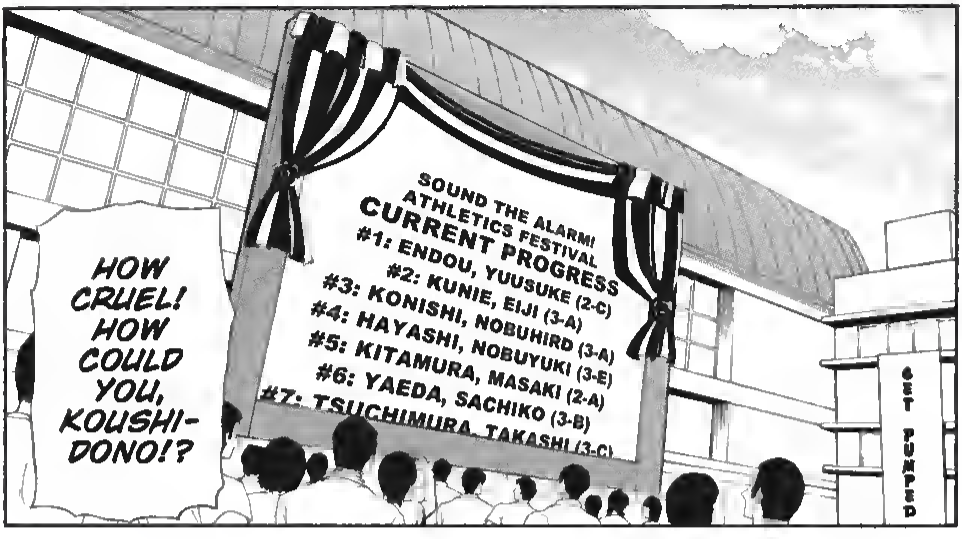
PISHI
PISHI
GABIIIN



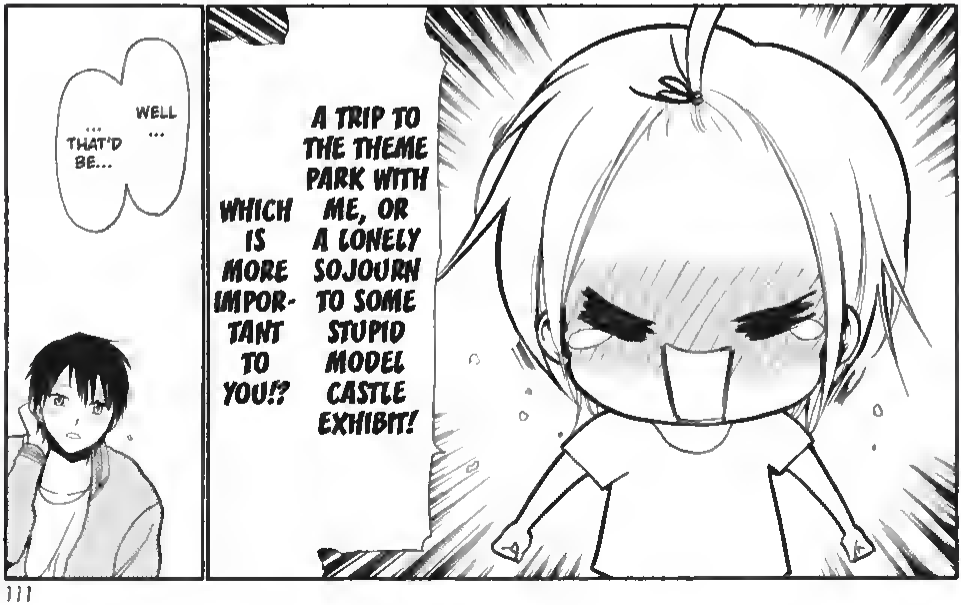
BY THE WAY, THE SINGLE HEADBAND THAT KOUSHI STOLE WAS ENOUGH TO WIN HIM THE MODEL CASTLE EXHIBIT TICKET.
Huh? Where is he?
...Yuusuke Endou-kun!!
GYAAAAAAAA

CHAPTER 65: THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (3) – END

SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO


SOUND THE ALARM! ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
CURRENT PROGRESS
#1: ENDOU, YUUSUKE (2-C)
#2: KUNIE, EIJI (3-A)
#3: KONISHI, NOBUHIRD (3-A)
#4: HAYASHI, NOBUYUKI (3-E)
#5: KITAMURA, MASAKI (2-A)
#6: YAEDA, SACHIKO (3-B)
#7: TSUCHIMURA, TAKASHI (3-C)
HOW CRUEL! HOW COULD YOU, KOUSHI-DONO!?
GET PUMPED

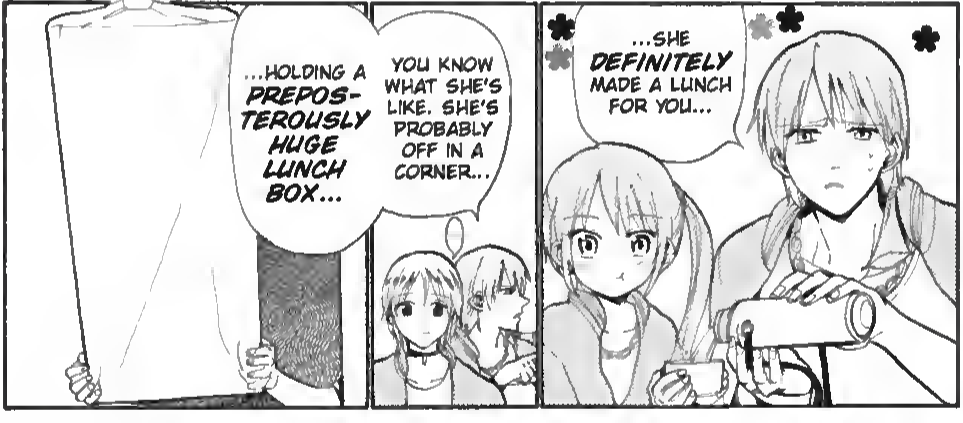
AND IT IS A SINGLE TICKET TO A MODEL CASTLE EXHIBIT!? HOW HEART-LESS!
I DID! BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS IN RANGE OF THE PRIZE I WANTED...
YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO COMPETE!

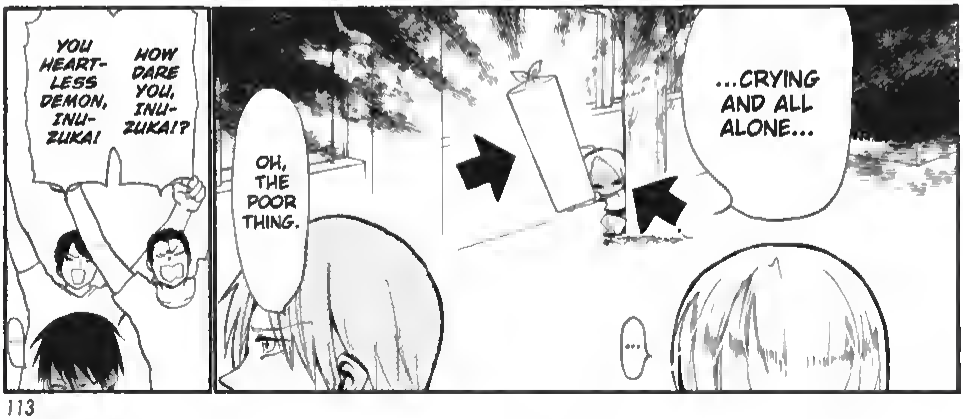

... WELL ... THAT'D BE...
WHICH IS MORE IMPOR-TANT TO YOU!?
A TRIP TO THE THEME PARK WITH ME, OR A LONELY SOJOURN TO SOME STUPID MODEL CASTLE EXHIBIT!

66. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (4) "JUST STARTED MARTIAL ARTS"

PACKAGE: HIJIKI BREAD HEALTHY VEGETABLE BREAD SERIES NO.2

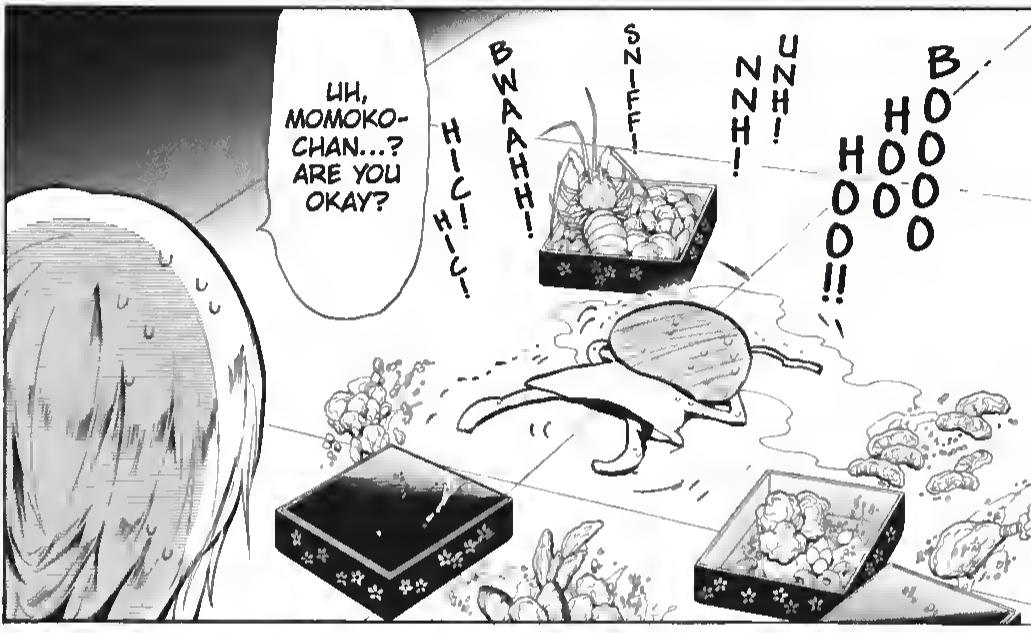
SFX: MUSHA (MUNCH) MUSHA MUSHA

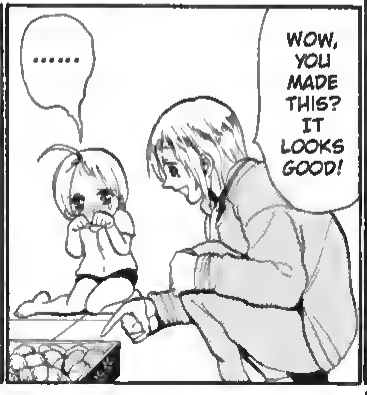

...HOLDING A PREPOSTEROUSLY HUGE LUNCH BOX...
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S LIKE. SHE'S PROBABLY OFF IN A CORNER...
...SHE DEFINITELY MADE A LUNCH FOR YOU...

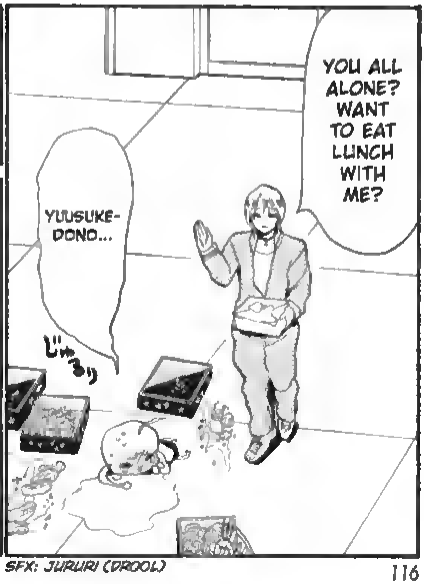


YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHE CARES FOR YOU! SHE PROBABLY STUFFED IT FULL OF YOUR FAVORITES!!
DON'T LET MOMO-KO'S HOME COOKING GO TO WASTE!!
IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT YOUR FIANCÉE!?
YES, YES.
OR SABLE-FISH!
LIKE SABLE-FISH!
IF THERE'S ONE THING SHE'S GOOD AT, IT'S COOKING.
HMM... GOOD POINT.
PATA (FLAP)
PATA
PATA.....
SABLEFISH
MAN, I CAN'T WAIT TO EAT SOME OF HER COOKING...
SHE FLAVORS IT THE WAY I LIKE...
SHE PUTS A LOT OF WORK INTO IT.
SHE'S GOT A WIDE REPER-TOIRE...
UZU (ITCH)
UZU
UZU

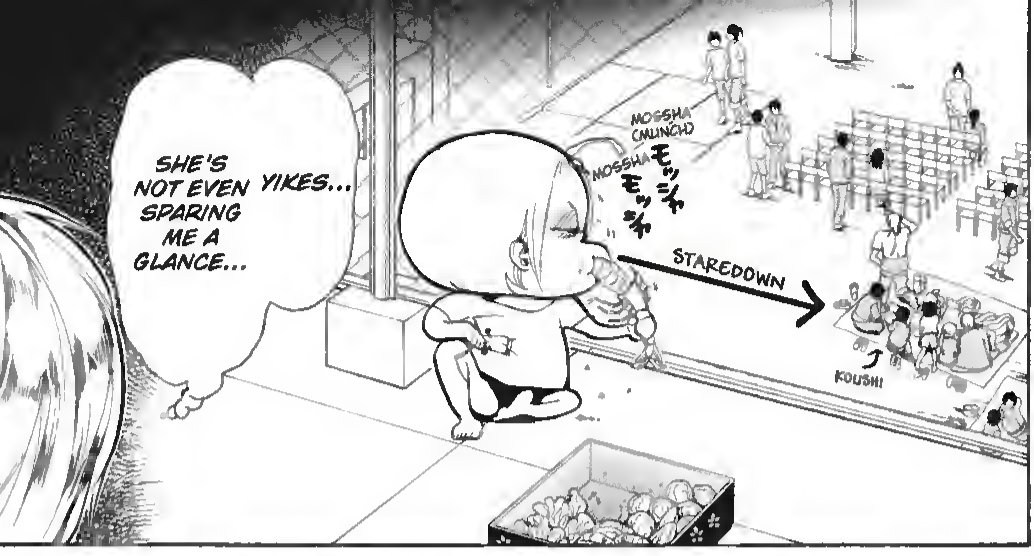
SASASASA (SWISH)
!?
IT'S JUST FOOD!
...AND THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING THAT MAKES HER GET CARRIED AWAY!
KIKI (SCREECH)
SFX: GAAAN (SHOCK)
SANAE'S FOOD IS GOOD TOO, KOUSHI!
TRY IT!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES I CAN GET GOOD FOOD!
!!
THANK YOU
MUKAAA (GRRRR)
WANA (QUIVER)
WANA
WANA
WANA
WANA
MMM, THAT'S GOOD...
HEE HEE HEE...



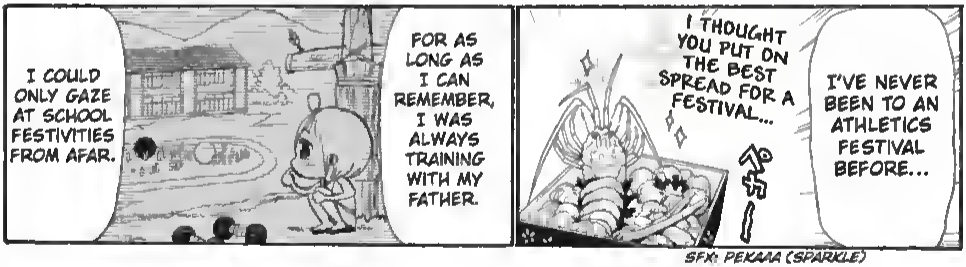


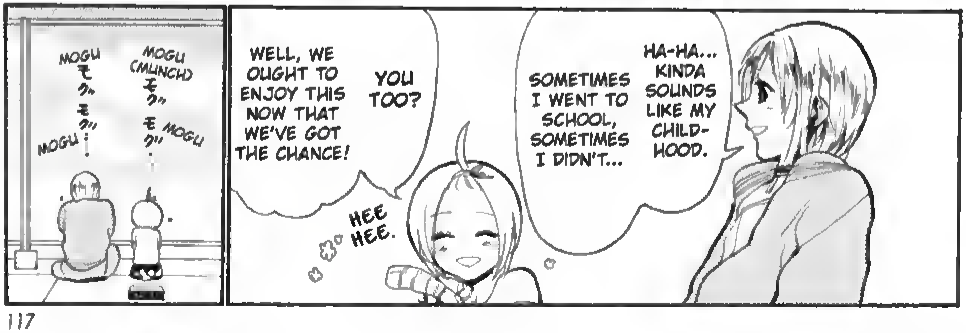


SFX: JURURI (DROOL)

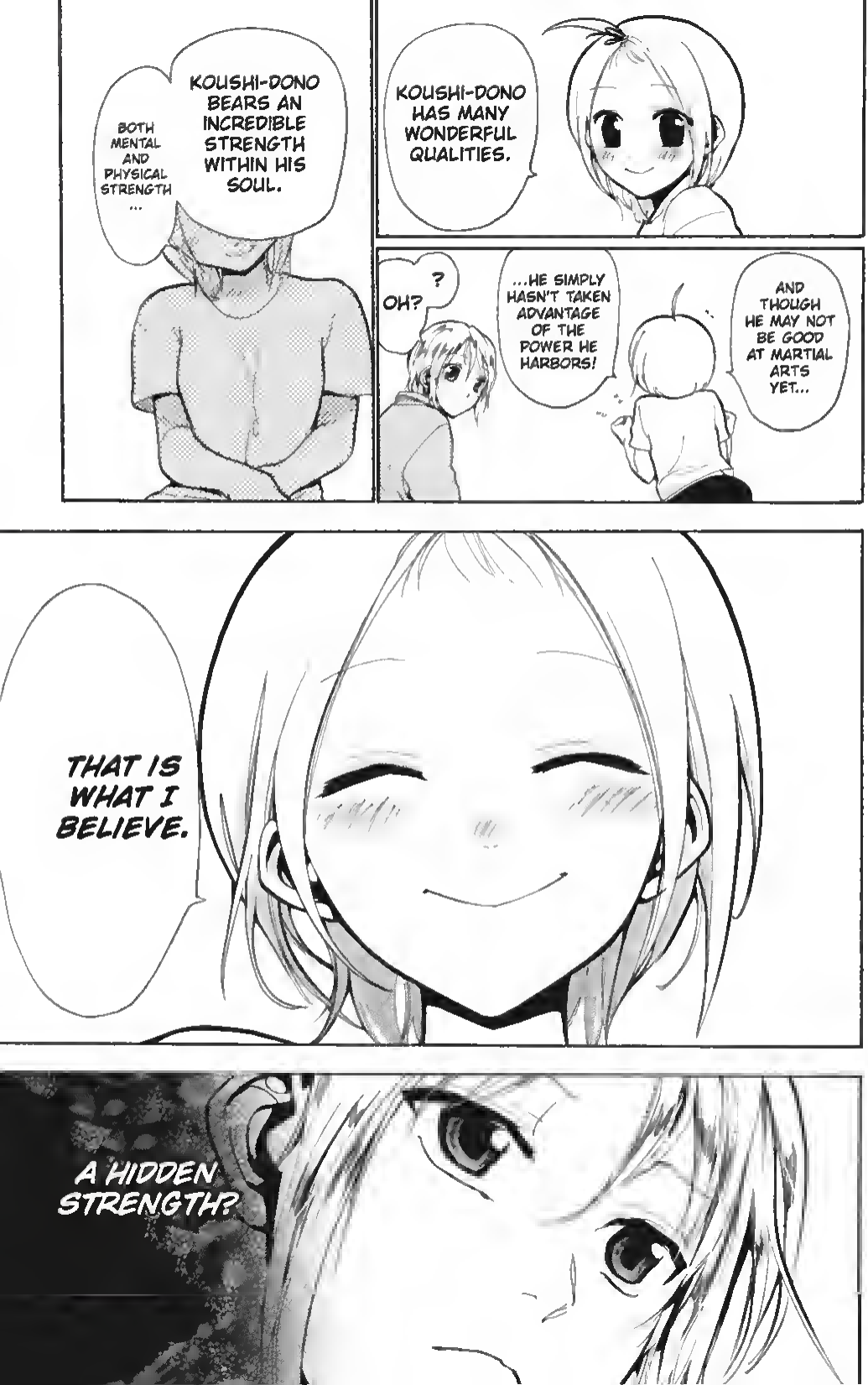

SHE'S NOT EVEN SPARING ME A GLANCE...
YIKES...
MOSSHA (MUNCH)
MOSSHA
STAREDOWN
KOUSHI

.....?
IS THAT RIGHT...?
LOBSTER, HUH? PRETTY GOURMET FOOD FOR AN ATHLETICS FESTIVAL!
YUCK...
LOOK AT THAT FACE!
OH... WOULD YOU LIKE SOME LOBSTER, YUUSUKE-OONO?
BOK! (POP)
PUFFY FROM CRYING


I COULD ONLY GAZE AT SCHOOL FESTIVITIES FROM AFAR.
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I WAS ALWAYS TRAINING WITH MY FATHER.
I THOUGHT YOU PUT ON THE BEST SPREAD FOR A FESTIVAL...
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO AN ATHLETICS FESTIVAL BEFORE...
SFX: PEKAAA (SPARKLE)


MOGU
MOGU
MOGU (MUNCH)
MOGU
MOGU
WELL, WE OUGHT TO ENJOY THIS NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE CHANCE!
YOU TOO?
HEE HEE.
SOMETIMES I WENT TO SCHOOL, SOMETIMES I DIDN'T...
HA-HA... KINDA SOUNDS LIKE MY CHILD-HOOD.

I WISH I COULD HAVE EATEN THIS LUNCH...
...WITH KOUSHI-DONO...
HAA (SIGH)
.....
.....
.....
SFX. WAA (RAHH) WAA
.....
.....
MOGU (MUNCH)
MOGU
...AND THEY SAY HE'S NOT GOOD AT MARTIAL ARTS.
...HE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY COLD TO OTHERS...
I MEAN...
...WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT KOUSHI SO MUCH?
SAY...
...I HOPE THIS DOESN'T COME OFF AS BEING RUDE, BUT...

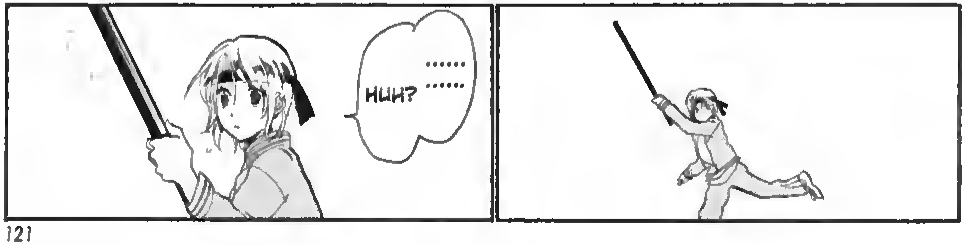

KOUSHI-DONO BEARS AN INCREDIBLE STRENGTH WITHIN HIS SOUL.
BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH ...
KOUSHI-DONO HAS MANY WONDERFUL QUALITIES.
OH? ?
...HE SIMPLY HASN'T TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE POWER HE HARBORS!
AND THOUGH HE MAY NOT BE GOOD AT MARTIAL ARTS YET...
THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE.
A HIDDEN STRENGTH?

CAN IT BE THAT BECAUSE SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE MIGHTY KUZU-RYUU CLAN...
...SHE CAN PERCEIVE THIS HIDDEN POWER DWELLING WITHIN KOUSHI INUZUKA ?

Time for our afternoon events!
EVERYONE'S

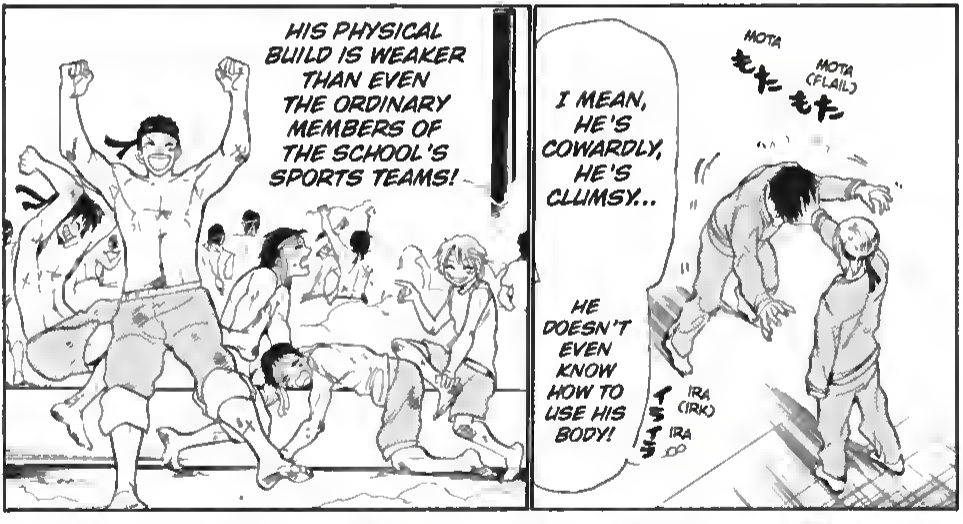
I'D HEARD THAT KOUSHI INUZUKA CAN'T USE MARTIAL ARTS...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW THE REASONS WHY.
WHAT ARE THE FACTS?
WE'RE ENEMIES NOW!
GO EASY ON ME...
First up is the stick tug-of-war!

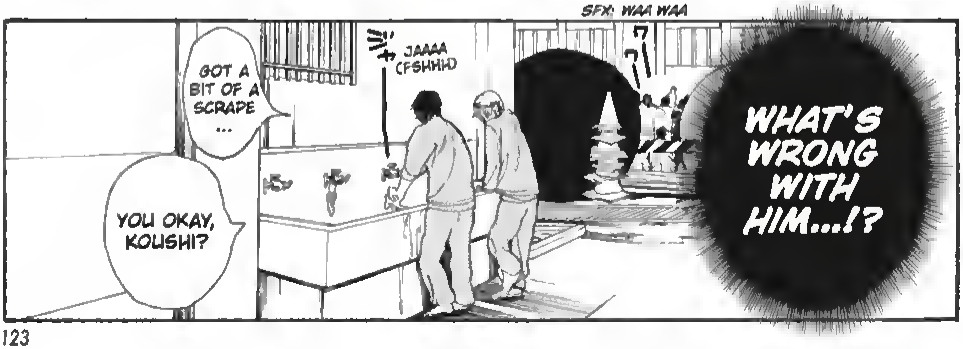
I'LL START WITH A LITTLE...
GUI (YANK)
GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FUTURE LEADER OF THE EASTERN ARMY IS ALL ABOUT.

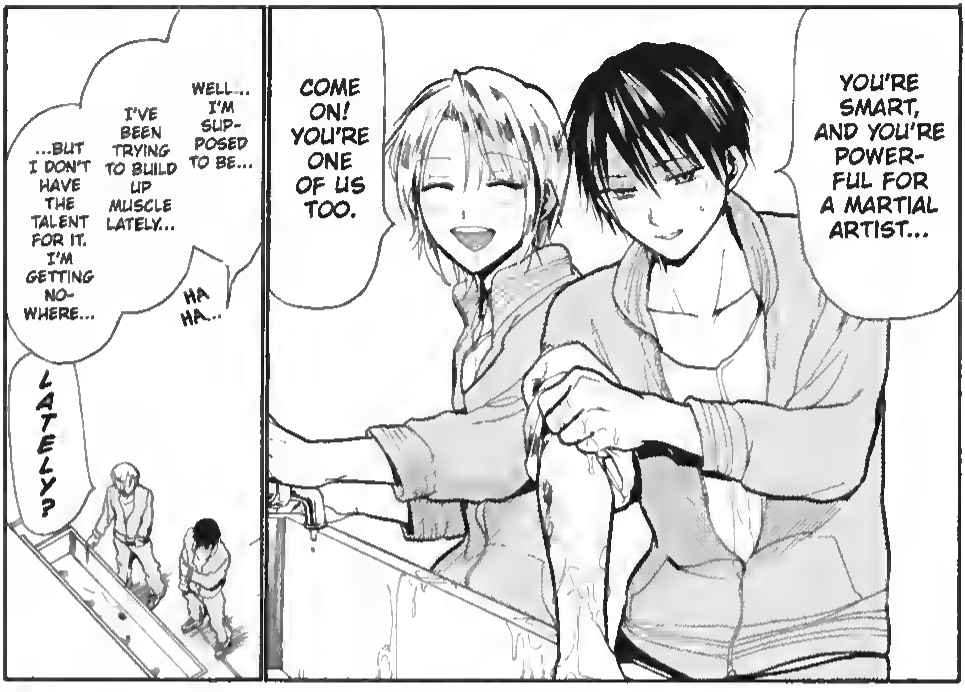

HUH?
.....
.....

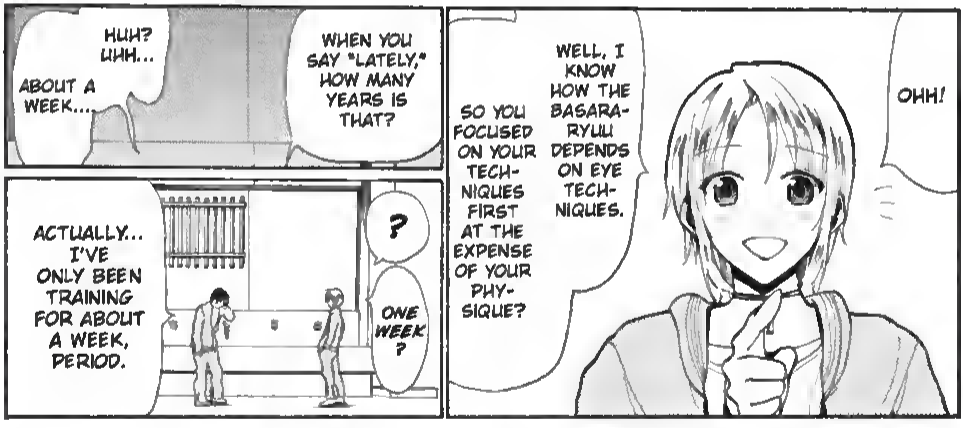
BUUUN (WHOOSH)
EVERYONE'S A STA
ゴロゴロゴロゴロ
GORO (ROLL) GORO GORO GORO
BALL ROLL
BUUUN
ROPE TUG-OF-WAR
.....
.....
.....
HUH?
WHAT IS THIS!?
.....
.....
WAAA
WAAA (RAHHH)
LOG TOP-PLING

SHHHN (SILENCE)
しーーーん……
BOYAAA (STARE)
...IS HE ALSO COMPLETELY INCAPABLE OF USING HIS KI?
NOT ONLY CAN HE CLEARLY NOT USE MARTIAL ARTS...
HE'S NO STRONGER THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON


HIS PHYSICAL BUILD IS WEAKER THAN EVEN THE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL'S SPORTS TEAMS!
I MEAN, HE'S COWARDLY, HE'S CLUMSY...
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE HIS BODY!
MOTA
MOTA (FLAIL)
IRA (IRK)
IRA


SFX: WAA WAA
GOT A BIT OF A SCRAPE ...
JAAAA (FSHHH)
YOU OKAY, KOUSHI?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...!?

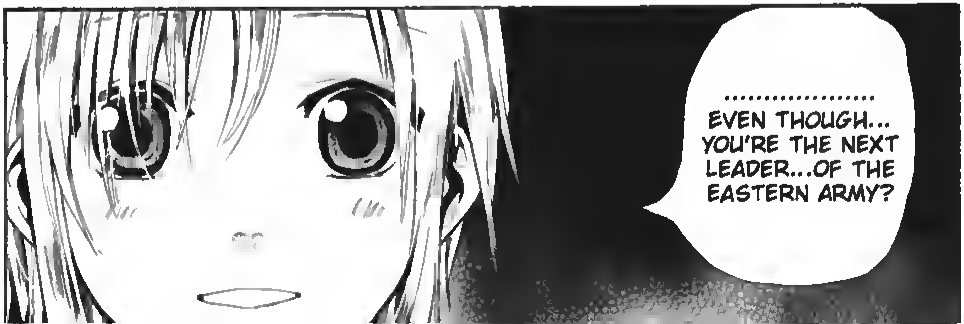

YOU'RE SMART, AND YOU'RE POWER-FUL FOR A MARTIAL ARTIST...
COME ON! YOU'RE ONE OF US TOO.
WELL... I'M SUP-POSED TO BE...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BUILD UP MUSCLE LATELY...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TALENT FOR IT. I'M GETTING NO-WHERE...
HA HA..
LATELY?


OHH!
WELL, I KNOW HOW THE BASARA-RYUU DEPENDS ON EYE TECH-NIQUES.
SO YOU FOCUSED ON YOUR TECH-NIQUES FIRST AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR PHY-SIQUE?
WHEN YOU SAY "LATELY," HOW MANY YEARS IS THAT?
HUH? UHH... ABOUT A WEEK....
?
ONE WEEK ?
ACTUALLY... I'VE ONLY BEEN TRAINING FOR ABOUT A WEEK, PERIOD.

...HUH?
YEAH... I FEEL EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THIS, BUT...

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WAS AFRAID OF MARTIAL ARTS, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED...
...SO I NEVER REALLY BOTHERED WITH ANY TRAINING UNTIL NOW...

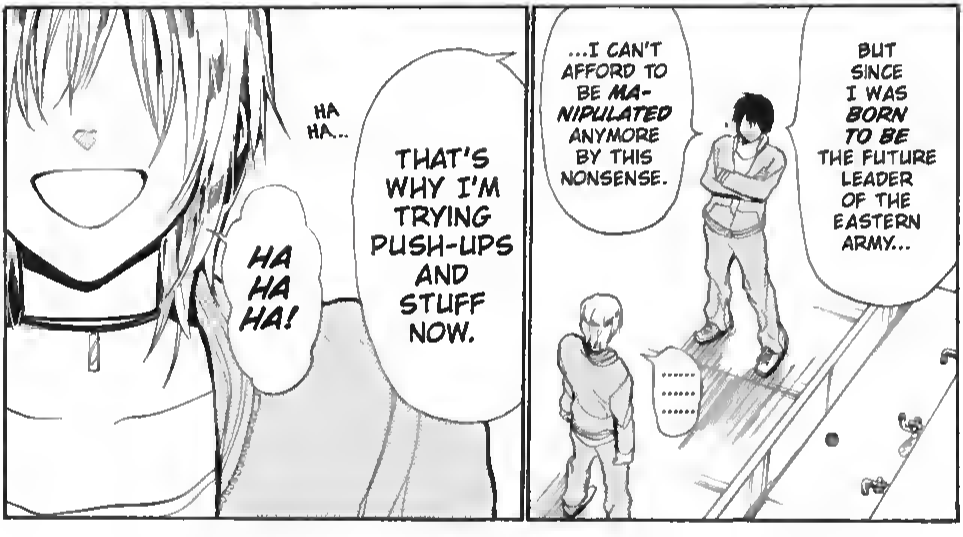
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
.....
WELL..
NONE...
NO TRAIN-ING?
NO...?
OH.
.....


.....
EVEN THOUGH... YOU'RE THE NEXT LEADER...OF THE EASTERN ARMY?

I'M JUST HOPING TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF, THAT'S ALL!
UHH, ACTUALLY... BEING THE LEADER? OF THE EAST STUFF? DOESN'T REALLY INTEREST ME.

...I'M THINKING THAT *TRYING MARTIAL ARTS FOR NOW* WOULD BE THE BEST STOPGAP TO GET ME THERE...
IF I WANT A PEACEFUL, HARASSMENT-FREE LIFE SOMEDAY...
I WANT TO BE A PROSECUTOR IN THE FUTURE.

.....
.....
"I'M EXPECTING GREAT THINGS FROM YOU."
"IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE."
"HOW IS THE PLAN PROCEEDING?"
"EASTERN ARMY."
"WESTERN ARMY."


HA HA...
HA HA HA!
THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING PUSH-UPS AND STUFF NOW.
...I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE MANIPULATED ANYMORE BY THIS NONSENSE.
BUT SINCE I WAS BORN TO BE THE FUTURE LEADER OF THE EASTERN ARMY...
.....
.....
.....

WOW, I FEEL STUPID FOR TAKING THIS ALL SO SERIOUSLY BEFORE!
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE LIKE!?
...PARDON...?
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

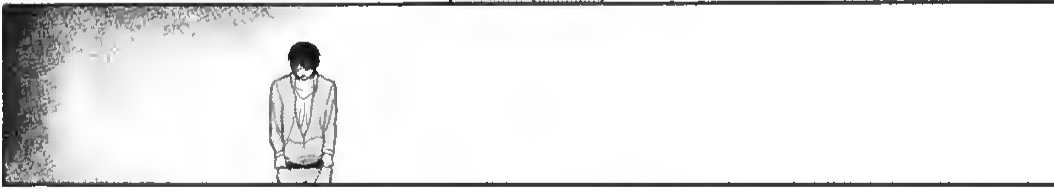
YOU'RE "TRYING MARTIAL ARTS" FOR NOW? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT...
...IF THAT'S THE STRONGEST YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
YOU CAN'T!
IF YOU WASTED SEVENTEEN YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, SHOULDN'T YOU SPEND THE NEXT SEVENTEEN YEARS WORKING TWICE AS HARD AS ANYONE ELSE?

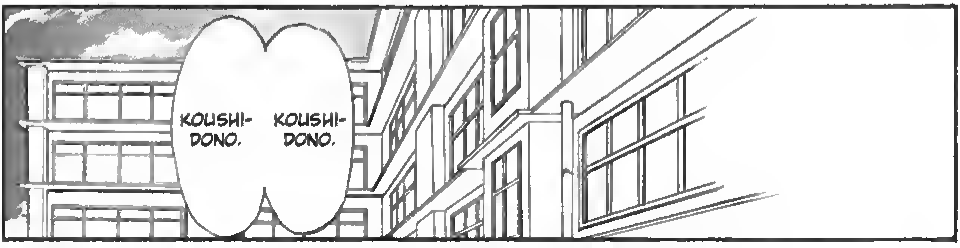
MAKES MY LIFE SEEM PRETTY EMPTY!
I BUSTED MY ASS FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS...
...AND WHAT IS IT THAT I GET TO USE THESE HARD-EARNED SKILLS TO DO?
HA HA HA...
.....
.....
??
...?
??
DON (THUD)
ドン

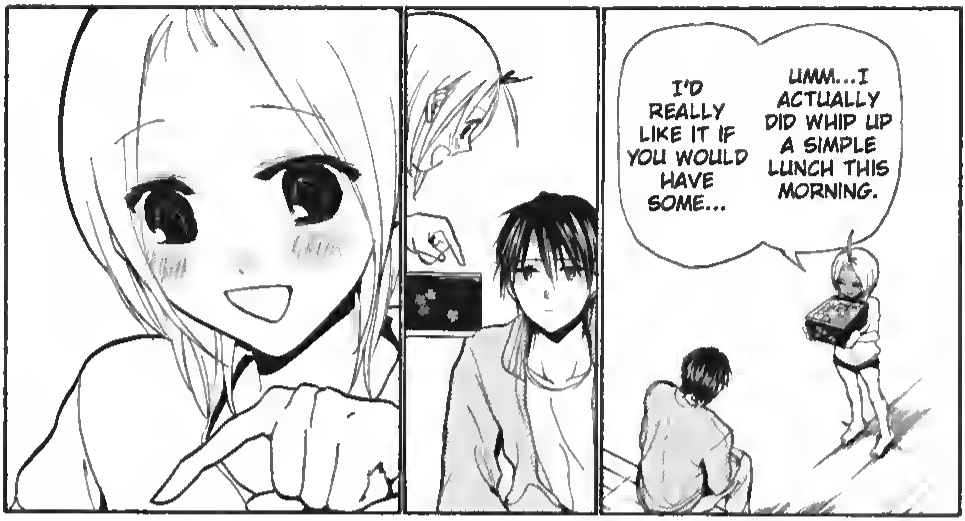
BABYSIT YOUR POINTLESS ASS.
I WAS BORN INTO THAT ROLE, JUST LIKE YOU...
AND GUESS WHAT?
SEE?
BORN TO BE MANIPULATED BY KOUSHI INUZUKA'S WHIMS...
SO DON'T WASTE MY LIFE.
.....
.....
.....

SIGH
GAKU (SHAKE) GAKU
?

DON'T BOTHER PLAYING PRETEND MARTIAL ARTS.
YOU HAVE NO POTENTIAL.




KOUSHI-DONO.
KOUSHI-DONO.


UMM...I ACTUALLY DID WHIP UP A SIMPLE LUNCH THIS MORNING.
I'D REALLY LIKE IT IF YOU WOULD HAVE SOME...

YOUR EYES ARE REALLY RED.
GIKU (GERK)
HUH!?
HA-HA... OH, IT'S NOTHING...
DOKI DOKI
THE ROLE OF BEING MANIPULATED BY KOUSHI INUZUKA, HUH...
BOSO (MUTTER)
HUH?

YOU KNOW...
...I SHOULD PROBABLY SPEND SOME TIME THINKING ABOUT THIS ONE...
.....?
OKAY... UHH... AND THE LUNCH...?

CHAPTER 66. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (4) – END

SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO

HANG IN THERE, MASTER YUUSUKE!!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN UNHAPPY.
WHY SHOULD I SPEND MY LIFE DOING MARTIAL ARTS...?
WHO WANTS TO DO MARTIAL ARTS? I HATE IT.
YUUSUKE HAS NO TALENT FOR THE ARTS.
IS THAT GRANDPA'S VOICE...?

HE HAS NOT LEARNED A SINGLE TECHNIQUE. HE WILL NEVER ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF OUR ANCIENT POWER.
THE CLAN'S PROJECT IS A FAILURE...
THIS IS NOT TRUE, FATHER...
SILENCE, MIKIHISA.
THIS IS YOUR FAULT. THE BOY'S PARENTS ARE CLEARLY INCOMPE-TENT...
YOU INCOM-PETENT...
INCOM-PETENT...
INCOM-PETENT...
FATHER
MOTHER
I UNDER-STAND THE CONCERN THAT WE HAVE BURDENED YOU WITH, IN OUR INCOMPE-TENCE...
...BUT I BELIEVE IN YUUSUKE'S POTENTIAL FOR BRILLIANCE! HE IS YOUR GRANDSON, AFTER ALL!
!
PARDON ME.

GET THAT THING IN SHAPE AND FIT TO BE USED...
YOU'RE HIS MOTHER, DAMMIT.
OH, BUT THE ONLY REASON THE BOY ISN'T UP TO SNUFF...
...IS BECAUSE OF THE WORTHLESS BRANCH-FAMILY BLOOD OF HIS FATHER, OF COURSE...
I'M SUPPOSED...
...TO DO MARTIAL ARTS.

IT'S NOT THE CLAN'S FAULT.
FOR MY CLAN! FOR MY FAMILY, FOR MYSELF...
GU (SQUEEZE)
"!"
...I HAD A FIRM RESOLVE ...
...IT WAS SIMPLY A MUST.
AS LONG AS MY FAMILY AND I LIVED IN THIS WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS...
...THAT I WOULDN'T LET THEM HAVE THAT UNCERTAIN-ABOUT-ME LOOK ON THEIR FACES EVER AGAIN.

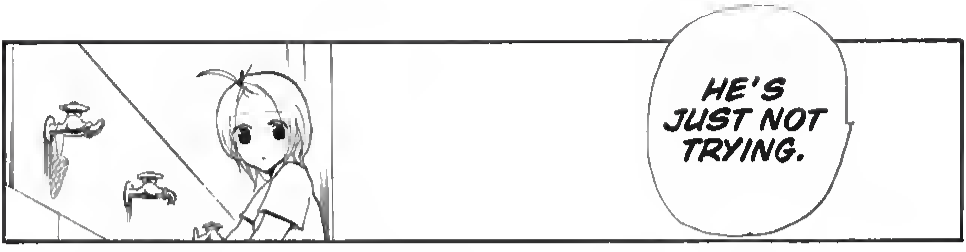
HOW DID HE LEARN SUCH A MOVE?
AMAZING!! AMAZING!
AMAZ-ING.
THE CLAN'S IN GOOD HANDS.
I ALWAYS KNEW HE HAD IT IN HIM!
HOW DO YOU DO EVERY-THING SO PERFECTLY?
YUUSUKE KUN'S TOTALLY THRASHING THE REST OF THE SCHOOL!
AMAZ-ING!

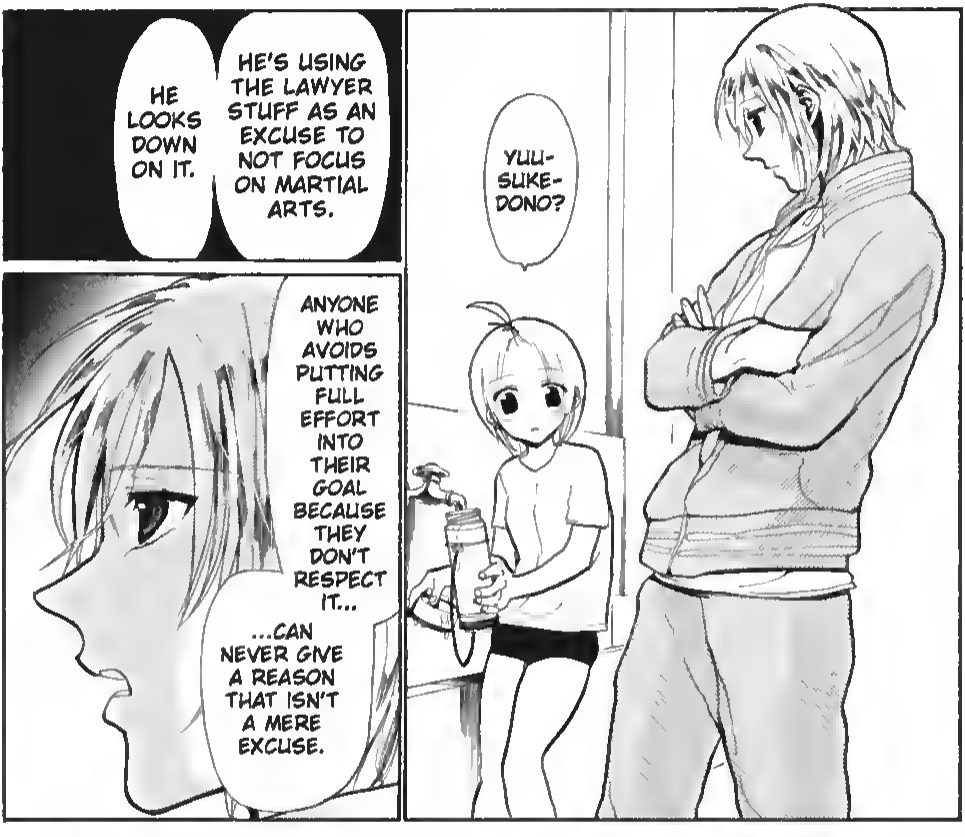
67. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (5) "KOUSHI INUZUKA AT THE LEVEL OF A FIVE-YEAR-OLD"

I WANT TO BE A PROSECUTOR IN THE FUTURE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT IF THAT'S THE STRONGEST YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
.....
.....
BOOOO (STARE)
.....
.....
THERE YOU ARE, INU-ZUKA!
IRA (IRK)
IRA
MUKA (GRRR)
NICE WORK, MAN!
BUT YOU'RE IN 60TH PLACE...
AND SINCE IROHA AND I HAD TO DEAL WITH THEM, THEY DRAGGED US OUT OF THE LEADER LIST.
*DISQUALIFICATION HAS A -500 PT PENALTY
HANZOU AND SHINTAROU HAVE MINUS 4,800 POINTS EACH.
LOOK AT THE LEADER-BOARD!
WHATTA COUPLE OF LOONS!
OUT
OUT
OUT
OUT
YOU'RE OUT

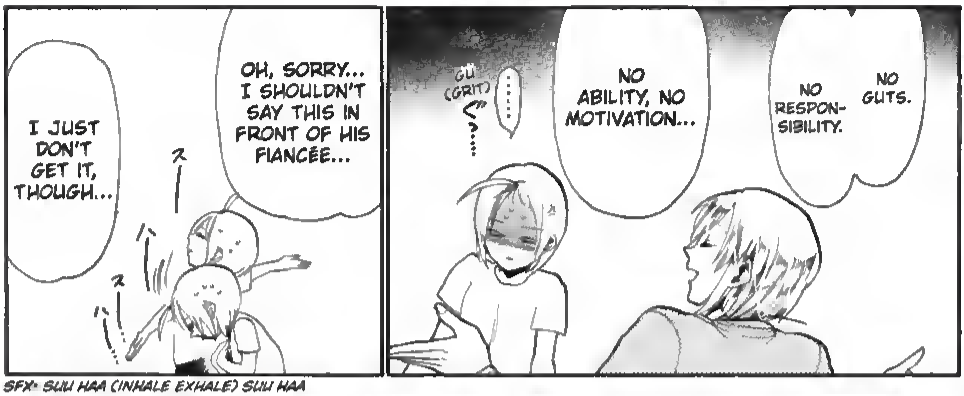
WHAT'S UP?
I'M PISSED...
REMEMBERING IS MAKING ME ANGRY.
イラ イラ
ビク
BIKU (TWITCH)
I AM... WORKING HARD... RIGHT?
SFX: IRA (IRK) IRA
WHAAAAT? AFTER ALL THE WORK YOU'VE BEEN DOING!?
I KNOW, RIGHT!?
I HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD, HAVEN'T I!?
ENDOU-KUN TOLD ME...
...THAT I DIDN'T SEEM TO BE TRYING HARD AT MARTIAL ARTS AT ALL...
AND SOME OTHER STUFF!
EXACTLY!
YOU'VE BEEN BUSTING YOUR BALLS TO BE A GREAT WARRIOR!
LIKE HELL I'LL EVER TURN OUT THAT WAY.
HUH ...?

I ONLY STARTED MARTIAL ARTS SO THAT IT WOULD BE A FOOTHOLD TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY ACTUAL DESIRE...
WHO WOULD WANT TO BE THE LEADER OF THE EASTERN ARMY?
ALL I WANT TO BE IS A PROSECUTOR...
I MEAN, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'M ONLY DOING MARTIAL ARTS BECAUSE IT'S THE FAULT OF THE FAMILY I WAS BORN INTO...
SIGH...
ALL THESE MARTIAL ARTISTS END UP ENSLAVED BY THE DEMANDS OF THEIR FAMILIES.
.....
WHY SHOULD I CARE WHAT SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY DOES THAT STUFF FOR A LIVING THINKS?
EXACTLY !!
UH... RIGHT.
YOU KNOW!?
BESIDES, EVERY-ONE'S FREE TO HAVE THEIR OWN DREAMS.
EXACTLY!
I'M BUILDING UP MUSCLE IN BETWEEN STUDY SESSIONS ON MY PATH TO BEING A PROSECUTOR!
.....
...BUT I'M NOT LOSING SIGHT OF WHAT I REALLY WANT!


HE'S JUST NOT TRYING.

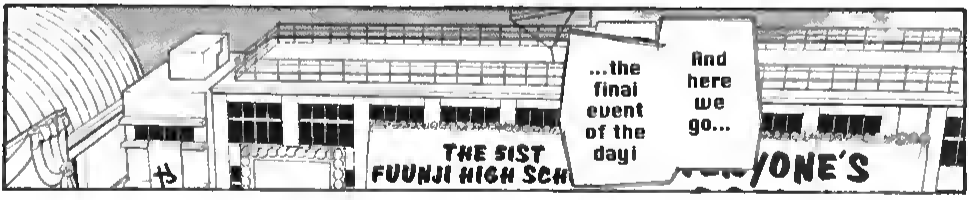

HE LOOKS DOWN ON IT.
HE'S USING THE LAWYER STUFF AS AN EXCUSE TO NOT FOCUS ON MARTIAL ARTS.
YUU-SUKE-DONO?
ANYONE WHO AVOIDS PUTTING FULL EFFORT INTO THEIR GOAL BECAUSE THEY DON'T RESPECT IT...
...CAN NEVER GIVE A REASON THAT ISN'T A MERE EXCUSE.

...BUT THE GUY'S COMPLETELY WORTHLESS!
I'M TALKING ABOUT KOUSHI. I TRIED TALKING TO HIM...
UMM... MEAN-ING?

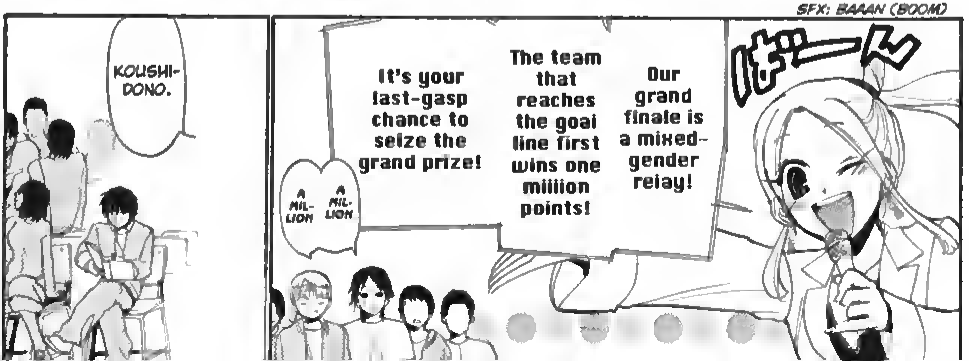

I JUST DON'T GET IT, THOUGH...
OH, SORRY... I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS IN FRONT OF HIS FIANCÉE...
GU (GRIT)
NO ABILITY, NO MOTIVATION...
NO RESPON-SIBILITY.
NO GUTS.

SFX: SUU HAA (INHALE EXHALE) SUU HAA

.....
.....
W-WELL...
SORRY.. I DON'T WANT ANY...
SHUT UP! NO STANDING WITHIN TEN METERS OF ME!
DOES HE EVEN THINK OF YOU AS A FIANCÉE?
THE GUY TOTALLY AVOIDS YOU.
ACK...
THE BONDS OF MAN AND WIFE ARE IMPERVIOUS TO ALL.
KI (GLARE)
KOUSHI-DONO WILL BE MUCH STRONGER...
AND UNTIL THEN, I WILL PROTECT HIM...
SETTLE DOWN WITH ME!
YOU AND I TOGETHER WOULD BE INVINCIBLE.
NIKO (GRIN)
HE'S A COLD-HEARTED JERK AND A WEAK-LING...
...WILL YOU GO ON A DATE WITH ME?
HOW ABOUT THIS? IF I WIN THE NEXT EVENT...
DO YOUR WORST...
I CHALL-ENGE YOU!
MAN AND WIFE? PROVE IT!
IF THOSE BONDS ACTUALLY EXIST BETWEEN YOU, I'LL SHATTER THEM!



SFX: BAAAN (BOOM)


KOUSHI-DONO.
It's your last-gasp chance to seize the grand prize!
The team that reaches the goal line first wins one million points!
Our grand finale is a mixed-gender relay!
ばーん
A MIL-LION
A MIL-LION

LIM, WOULD YOU PLEASE ...
...JOIN THE RELAY RACE WITH ME?
HUH?
HELL NO... WHAT A PAIN.
.....
.....
じ〜
...!!!
(STARE)
ENTRY
GU (GRIP)
ぐ〜...
.....!!
PLEASE!!
UH...
.....
Everyone in the race, the starting line is over here!
GEEZ O-... OKAY...
BISHI (SHOVE)
HEY.
WANNA KNOW A SECRET?
THE REA-SON...
...THAT MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE SO FAST...
...IS BECAUSE THEY FOCUS THEIR KI IN THEIR FEET.

FOR MOST MARTIAL ARTISTS...
...THIS ABILITY IS LEARNED BY THE AGE OF FIVE.
IN OTHER WORDS, KOUSHI...
...THE FACT THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS NOW...
...IS LIKE TRYING TO PASS YOUR LAW EXAMS AS A FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD.
CAN YOU DO THAT...
...BY TRAINING "IN THE MEAN-TIME"?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HACK IT...
...BY "JUST TRYING IT FOR NOW"?
HMM?
PAAN (BANG)
パーン
And the first runners are off!

WHAT'S UP?
?
.....
...WHY DOESN'T KOUSHI-KUN JUST GIVE IT BACK?
WELL, I WASN'T THERE, BUT...
SO YUUSUKE ENDOU IS PLAYING HEAD GAMES WITH KOUSHI-KUN?
OH?

FOR MY FAMILY!
FOR THE MAN I LOVE...
FOR MY CLAN AND FATHER!
FOR THE CLAN!
BUT...
...I CAN'T REALLY ACT LIKE I'M ALL THAT, SINCE I SPENT TIME RUNNING FROM MY PROBLEMS TOO...
I DUNNO... IT'S JUST...

...BECAUSE OF SOME-ONE ELSE'S FAULT.
...NEVER THOUGHT THAT I UNDER-TOOK THE DISCIPLINE OF MARTIAL ARTS...
I'VE...
THE FAULT OF MY FAMILY...
WA (RAHH!)
Wow, just look at the third runner on the white team!!!

Momoko Kuzuryuu-san from Class 2-C is tearing up the track!
In an instant, she's taken over the race!
She's opening an enormous lead!
To the anchor, Koushi Inuzuka-kun!
And here comes the baton pass!

REMEMBER! IN YOUR FEET!
Will he take that straight to the finish line!?
Inu-zuka-kun takes over with a huge lead built up!
The white team with the white head-bands!
And there's the pass!
RRGH!
.....
I CAN'T DO THIS!
SHIIN (SILENT)
I CAN'T DO CRAP!
YOU CAN DO IT!!
FOCUS KI... IN MY FEET?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ALWAYS BEEN IN MY CORNER...
WE'VE GOT THIS PRIZE IN THE BAG!
KOU-SHI-DONO!
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, KOUSHI-DONO!
YOU CAN DO IT.
BUT I'VE NEVER ONCE LIVED UP TO HER EXPECTA-TIONS...

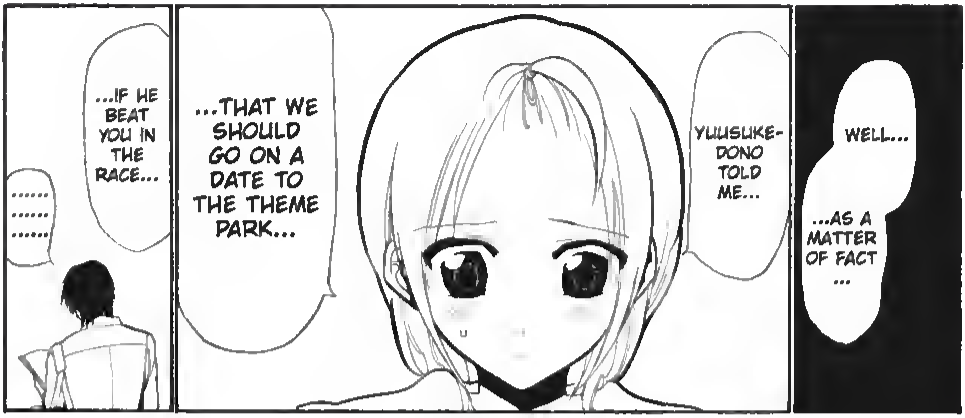
H-how can anyone be this fast!?
He's passed up five runners and is closing in on the leader!!
But Endou-kun on the red team is making up the distance !!!
!!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT IF THAT'S THE STRONGEST YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
YOU CAN'T!
YOU HAVE NO POTENTIAL.
YOU CAN DO IT, KOUSHI-DONO!
I CAN'T. YOU CAN.
I CAN'T!
YOU CAN!

YOU CAN'T.

YOU CAN SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE MAKING EXCUSES.
A come-from-behind victory!!! Yuusuke Endou takes first place!!!

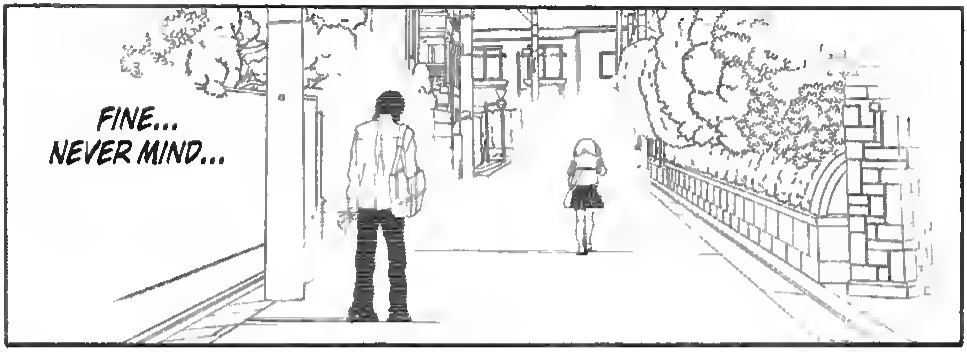
SOUND THE ALARM!
ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
FINAL RESULTS
#1: ENDOU, YUUSUKE (2-C)
#2: KONISHI, HOBUHIRO (3-A)
#3: KUHIE, EIJI (3-A)
#4: YAEDA, SACHIKO
#5: HAYAMI, NOBUYUKI (3-B)
#6: TOSHIKAWA, TAMAMI (3-C)
#7: TOSHIKAWA, YAMAMI (3-C)
.....
.....
.....
.....
...YEAH.
THAT'S GOOD.
60TH PRIZE
MODEL CASTLE WIDE TICKET
SHIIN (SILENCE)
...DID YOU GET...THE TICKET YOU WERE HOPING FOR?
KOUSHI-DONO...


WELL...
...AS A MATTER OF FACT ...
YUUSUKE-DONO TOLD ME...
...THAT WE SHOULD GO ON A DATE TO THE THEME PARK...
...IF HE BEAT YOU IN THE RACE...
.....
.....
.....

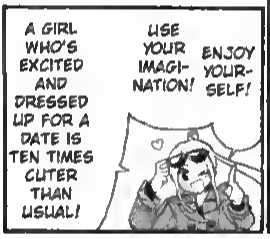
THAT'S GOOD.

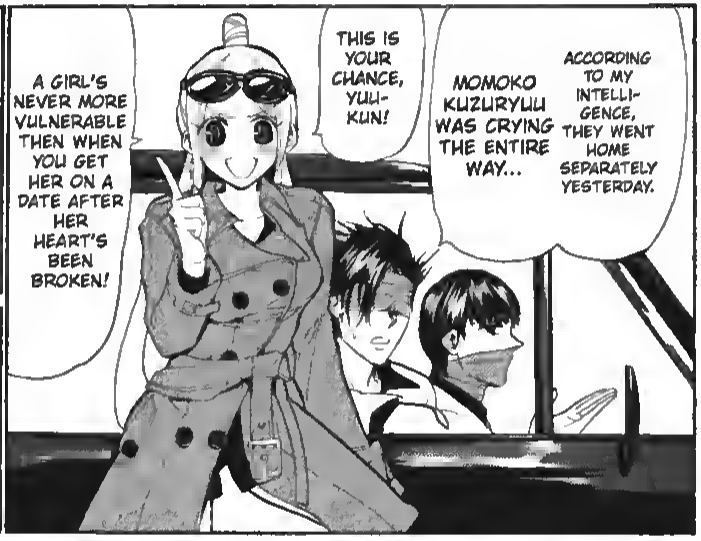
.....
.....
KOUSHI-DONO...
...YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN RECENT TIMES...
I WISH THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER MY FEELINGS!
DO YOU REALLY DETEST BEING ENGAGED TO ME SO MUCH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU...?
DO YOU EVER CONSIDER MINE?

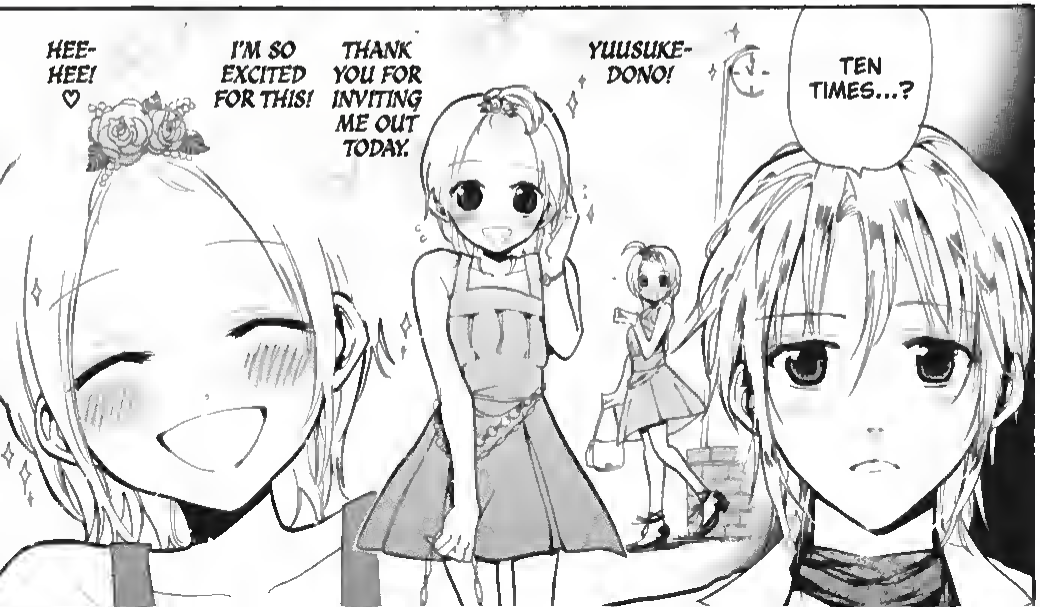
CHAPTER 67. THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL (5) — END


FINE...
NEVER MIND...

WHERE'S THE RO-MANCE!?
OH, COME ON!
RIGHT... IT'S MY JOB, AFTER ALL.


A GIRL WHO'S EXCITED AND DRESSED UP FOR A DATE IS TEN TIMES CUTER THAN USUAL!
USE YOUR IMAGI-NATION!
ENJOY YOUR-SELF!


A GIRL'S NEVER MORE VULNERABLE THEN WHEN YOU GET HER ON A DATE AFTER HER HEART'S BEEN BROKEN!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, YUU-KUN!
MOMOKO KUZURYUU WAS CRYING THE ENTIRE WAY...
ACCORDING TO MY INTELLI-GENCE, THEY WENT HOME SEPARATELY YESTERDAY.


HEE-HEE! ♡
I'M SO EXCITED FOR THIS!
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME OUT TODAY.
YUUSUKE-DONO!
TEN TIMES...?

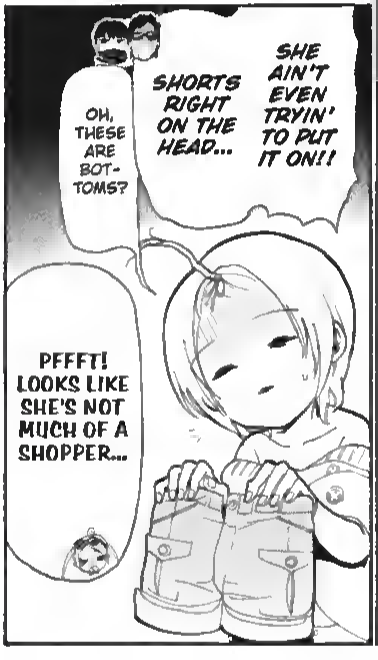
68. I HATE THIS DATE

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR)
KASHA (CLICK)
UH...
H-HI THERE.
I HOPE YOU WEREN'T WAITING LONG.
BUT THAT'S WHAT YUU-KUN'S HERE TO DO!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE MOMOKO-CHAN... SHE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN DATING ANYONE OTHER THAN KOUSHI-KUN!
AND SHE'S NOT DRESSED UP. SHE'S EVEN BARE-FOOT...
SHE LOOKS LIKE AN EASTER ISLAND STATUE!
...SAYS GINJI!
OH... YUU-SUKE-DONO...
HELLO
ZUZU (SNIFF)
ACTU-ALLY...
I ACCIDENTALLY SHOWED UP EARLY...FOUR HOURS EARLY...
HEH HEH

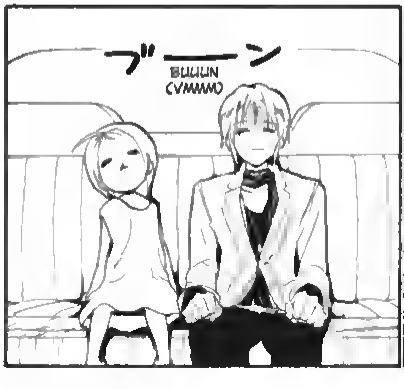
SORRY... THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
DID YOU FIGHT WITH KOUSHI?
.....
HAAAAH...
IT'S HARD TO HANG AROUND THE HOUSE...
WHAT CAN I DO TO CHEER YOU UP?
I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE GO SHOPPING?
N-NO, IT'S OKAY. I CAN FORGET ABOUT KOUSHI-DONO FOR ONE DAY!
HA HA HA
THANKS.....
OH, I SEE ...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO CRY... I WANTED YOU TO SMILE.
I TOLD KOUSHI THAT I FELT SORRY FOR YOU, BASED ON THE WAY HE TREATS YOU...
SIGN: HACHIKO THE FAITHFUL
THIS IS WHERE THOSE RICH-BOY INSTINCTS KICK IN!
IT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT KOUSHI-KUN WOULD NEVER BOTHER TO DO WITH HER...
BRILLIANT MOVE, YUU-KUN!
GU (CLENCH)
SHOPPING!!
HOW CAN HE SAY SUCH WORDS SO NATURALLY ...?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ACT NICE AND TOSS A LITTLE CHUMP CHANGE AROUND, AND THE GIRLS SIMPLY MELT.
JD CARD
1234 5432 6789
VISA
WHAT GIRL ISN'T DELIGHTED BY GETTING TO WEAR PRETTY NEW CLOTHES?
HERE, PUT IT ON!
BRING ME EVERY-THING IN THE STORE.
I CAN HAVE IT? WHAT SHOULD I PICK?
THIS TOO?
NOW SHE'LL GET INTO THE MOOD.
HEH-HEH... DOES IT LOOK GOOD ON ME, YUUSUKE-DONO!?

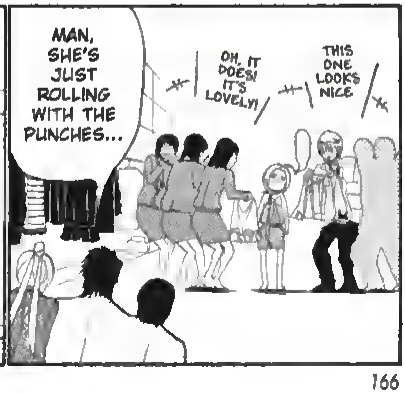
MA'AM!


OH, THESE ARE BOT-TOMS?
SHORTS RIGHT ON THE HEAD...
SHE AIN'T EVEN TRYIN' TO PUT IT ON!!
PFFFT! LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT MUCH OF A SHOPPER...

ベローン
BEROOON (FLOP)
SHA (WHISK)


ブーーン
BUUUN (VMMM)

HE GAVE UP.
UH-OH!


MAN, SHE'S JUST ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES...
OH, IT DOES! IT'S LOVELY!
THIS ONE LOOKS NICE

TIME TO HEAD FOR OUR REAL DESTINATION: DEATH NINJA LAND!
HERE WE GO!
BUUUN
YOU'VE SPENT SO MUCH MORE TIME TRAINING THAN ENJOYING YOUR LIFE...
REMEMBER YESTERDAY, WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN A SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL?
HUH...? HOW CAN YOU TELL?
AT THE THEME PARK?
YOUR FIRST TIME?
GOOD JOB, YUU-KUN! PLAY ON YOUR SHARED EXPERIENCES! CONVINCE HER YOU KNOW HOW SHE FEELS!
NICE ONE !!
UGH...
EARBUD
URFF
THIS WILL WORK FOR SURE! SHE'LL FEEL LIKE PUTTING HERSELF IN YOUR HANDS AND ENJOYING HER FIRST TRIP TO THE PARK!!
JUST THE TWO OF US.
LET'S HAVE A TIME TO REMEMBER TOGETHER...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER GONE EITHER.

EEEE!
HA HA HA...
I NEVER KNEW THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH FUN!
FUWA (FLOAT)
EEK! THAT BREEZE...
I HOPE NOBODY SAW...
GOLIN (VRRM)
GOLIN
PYUUU (WHEEE)

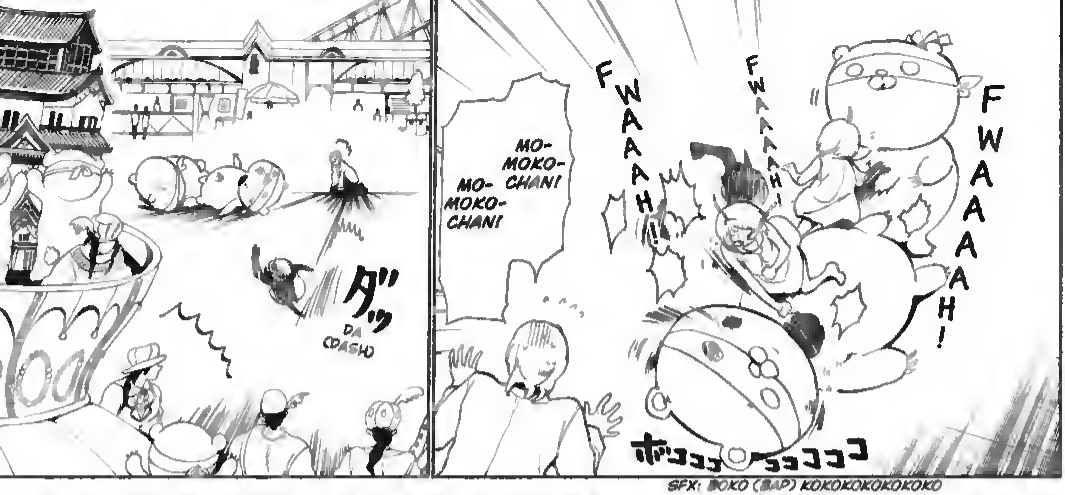
BUUU (BLOOSH)
ブー
BASAA (FLAP)
バサァ
SFX: BASASASA
HAUNTED MANSION
SHIIIN (SHHH)
ビク
BIKU (TWITCH)
AAAAAAH!
NO SHAME
GYA HA HA! HEEE HEE HEE HYA HYA!
バサササ
SKY Floor
SFX: GOUN GOUN
BIKU
ビクン!!
ゴウンゴウン
BIKU
ビク

JAPAN CASTLE
PLASTIC MODEL
AN OLD JAPANESE CASTLE...
HUH?
SFX: BURU (SHIVER) BURU
MOMOKO-CHAN?
STUPID CASTLE... WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT A DUMB OL' CASTLE?
DEATH NINJA LAND'S MASCOT IS A BEAR NINJA, SO THEY HAVE STUFF LIKE THIS TOO!
SFX: BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU

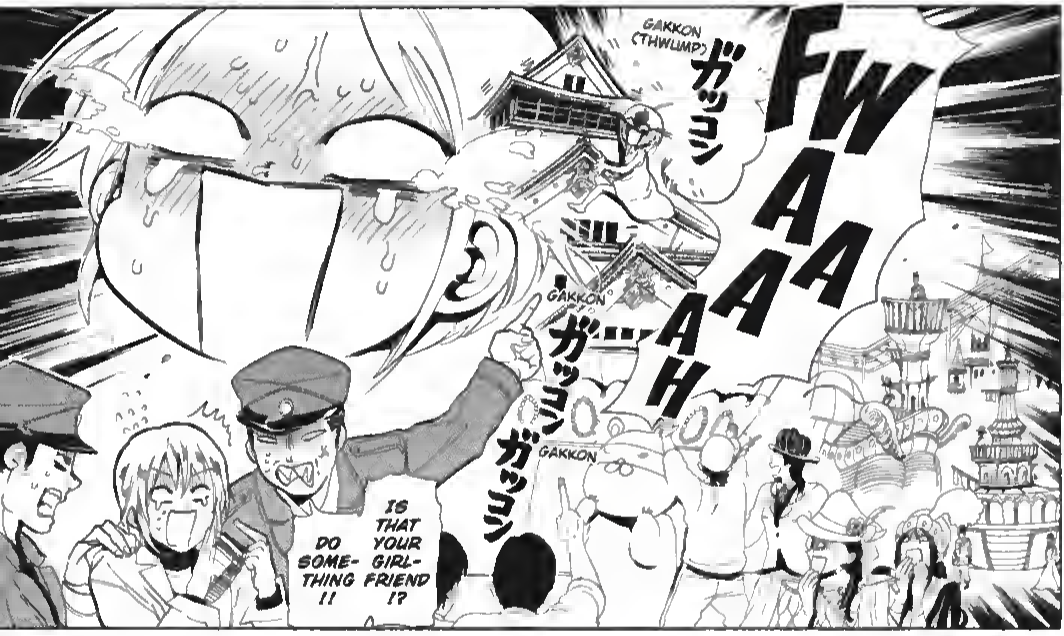
DEATH NIN-ORAN!!
PIKI (TWITCH)
TEE-HEE!♥
LOVE
HI BOYS AND GIRLS!
WE'RE THE FIANCÉS OF THE LAND OF NINJAS!
DEATH NIN-TAROU!

DO (WHOMP)
FWAAAH!!

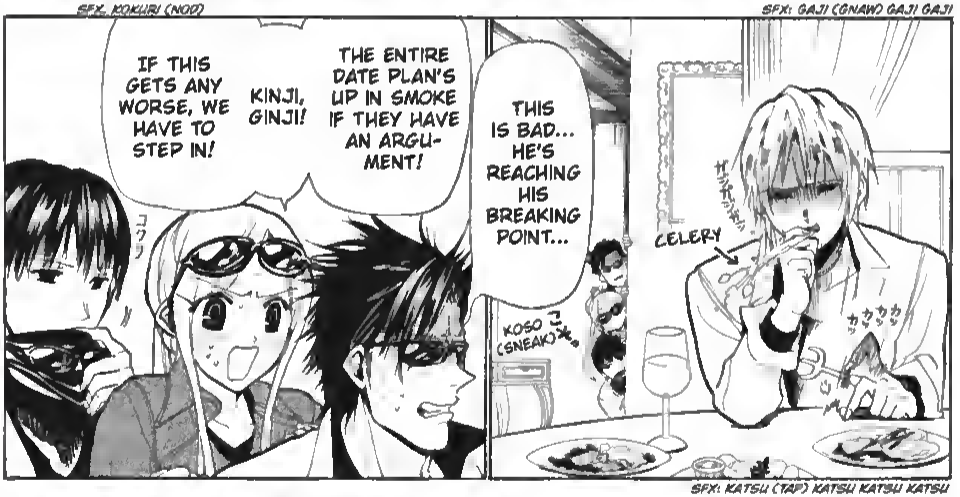
LITTLE GIRL!?
LITTLE GIRL!?
BWAAAAH!
FWAAAAH!



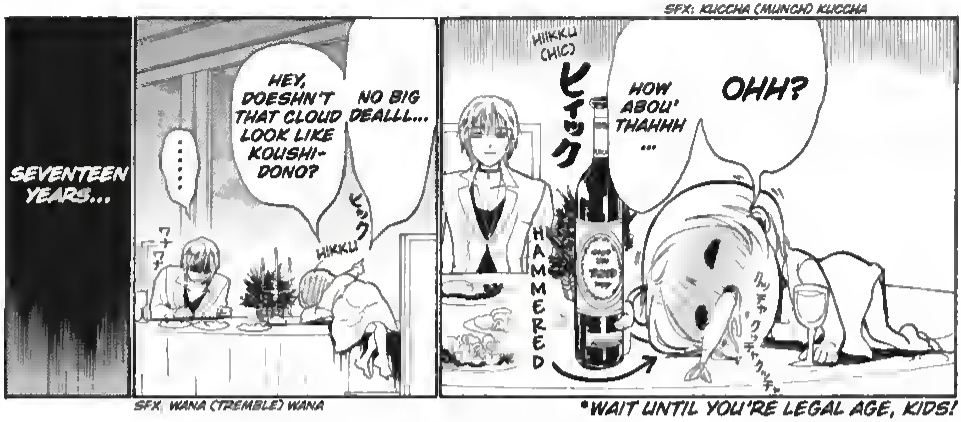
SFX: POKO (BAP) KOKOKOKOKOKO



DELUXE GOLD SUITE


SFX: KOKURI (NOD)
IF THIS GETS ANY WORSE, WE HAVE TO STEP IN!
KINJI, GINJI!
THE ENTIRE DATE PLAN'S UP IN SMOKE IF THEY HAVE AN ARGUMENT!
THIS IS BAD... HE'S REACHING HIS BREAKING POINT...
KOSO (SNEAK)
SFX: GAJI (GNAW) GAJI GAJI
CELERY
SFX: KATSU (TAP) KATSU KATSU KATSU

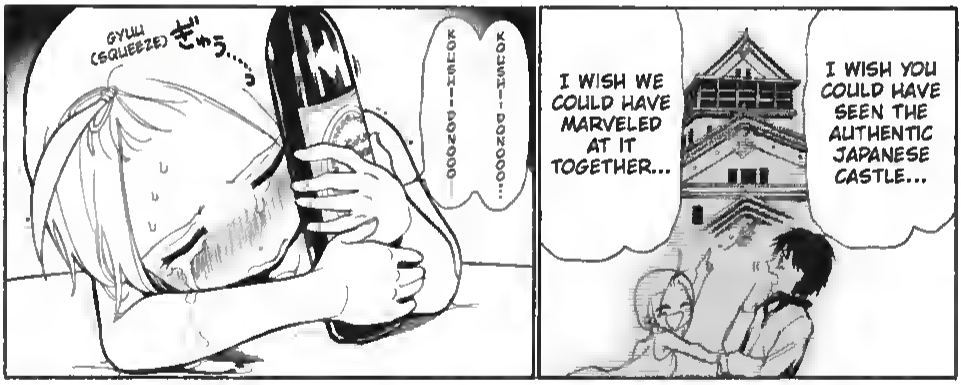
JUST FOR YOU.
...SO I UP-GRADED TO THIS ROOM.
THE TICKETS WE WON FROM SCHOOL WEREN'T QUITE AS NICE...
HERE WE ARE...
...IN THE NICEST ROOM ON THE VERY TOP FLOOR.


SFX: KUCCHA (MUNCH) KUCCHA
SEVENTEEN YEARS...
HEY, DOESHN'T THAT CLOUD LOOK LIKE KOUSHI-DONO?
NO BIG DEALLL...
HIKKU
SFX: WANA (TREMBLE) WANA
HIKKU (HIC)
HOW ABOU' THAHHH...
OHH?
HAMMERED
*WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE LEGAL AGE, KIDS!

...THE MORE OTHERS SANG MY PRAISES!
THE MORE CAPABLE I BECAME...
...THROUGH STUDY, PRACTICE AND CONVER-SATION.
WORKING TO LIVE UP TO THE ENDOU NAME IN POLITICAL MASTERY...
LEARNING HOW TO USE MARTIAL ARTS...
I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE MAS-TERING EVERY-THING...

ARE YOU FEELING...
...WORRIED ABOUT ME...?
DID YOU MANAGE TO DRAW A BATH FOR YOURSELF?
AHHH...
SO WHAT'S HER EXCUSE...?
I HOPE...
...YOU'RE EATING WELL...
GUSUN (SNIFFLE)
KOUSHI-DONO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW...?

KOUSHI-DONO...
I WISH I COULD HAVE GONE ON THE PARACHUTE RIDE...
...AND THE FERRIS WHEEL WITH YOU...


KOUSHI-DONOOO...
GYUU (SQUEEZE) ぎゅう....
I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CASTLE...
I WISH WE COULD HAVE MARVELED AT IT TOGETHER...

KOUSHI-DONOOOO...
WHY...
KOUSHI-DONOOO...
WHY DO YOU SAY THOSE THINGS ABOUT HIM!?
WHY DO YOU MAKE THOSE FACES!?

...MMM!?
...SCU...
...MAN...
HU...
HOW IS THAT PIECE OF HUMAN SCUM BETTER THAN ME IN ANY WAY!?
AAAAAAAH!!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, BEYOTCH !!!!!
BIRI (RIIIPP)
BIRI
BIRI
BUCCHIIIIN (RRRRRRIIIPPP)
ビリビリビリビリーン!!

HEY, YOUR CLOTHES!
UNDERWEAR DOESN'T EVEN MATCH!
PAY ATTENTION!
WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA PAY ATTENTION TO!?
GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE, YUUSUKE.
YURA (CLURCH)
ユラァ…
GOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴ
I ONLY PUT ON MY BEST UNDERWEAR FOR KOUSHIDONO!
AS IF I'D PUT THEM ON FOR ANOTHER MAN'S SAKE! CLOWN!

SFX: WANA (TREMBLE) WANA WANA

I'M GOING TO KILL THAT BITCH!!!!
BEKI (CRUNCH)
BAKI (CRICK)
BOKI (CRACK)
PARIIIN (CRAASH)
BUN (WHOOSH)
MASTER, SETTLE D—
OOF!
GA (WHAM)
MASTER!!
KINJI, GINJI! THE ROPES!
GA (THUD)
BRING IT! DO YOUR WORST!!!
ZUBO (CRUNCH)
GASHAAN (CRAASH)
TAKIIN (KABOOM)
DODODODODO (DOOOM)
RAAGH!!
AAAGH!!

ドドドド
POU
ドッ
DO
(BOOM)
ズゴゴ ゴゴゴ…!!
ZUGOGOGOGOGO
(RRRRRRRUMBLE)
ANGYAAA
(GRAHHHH)
ドカーン
DOKAAN
(KABOOM)

I LIKE THE TV SHOWS I WATCH WITH KOUSHI-DONO!
I LIKE THE FOOD I EAT WITH KOUSHI-DONO!
SHUT UP, YOU DORK!! THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!!!
I CAN DO EVERYTHING BETTER THAN KOUSHI!!!
WHAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH ABOUT ME!?
SFX: BABABABA (WHOOSH)
I...
I'M HAPPIEST WHEN I'M AROUND KOUSHI-DONO!!
I LOVE BEING AT HOME WITH KOUSHI-DONO!
I LOVE GOING TO SCHOOL WITH KOUSHI-DONO!
I LOVE WALKING DOWN THE PATH WITH KOUSHI-DONO!
I JUST—!!!
I JUST...

I JUST FREAKIN' LOVE HIIIIIIIM!!!!!!
DOKAAAN (BOOOOM)

I...
I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED!!
ZEEE HAAA (HUFF)
HAAA
HAAA
SUP!!!! (ZZZ)
SUP!!!!
SFX: MUNYA (YAWN) MUNYA
DAM-MIT...
KOUSHI-DONO... KOUSHI-DONO...
PIKU (TWITCH)
YUUSUKE-DONOOO...

...YOU DOLT...
SFX: NYU (NYOIK)
WHAT A COMPLETE FAILURE.
YIKES... INSTEAD OF DEEPENING THEIR BONDS, HE WANTS TO KILL HER...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE HEART OF A TEENAGER IS A COMPLEX THING.
GAKURI (SLUMP)
...I'LL KILL HER.
...SOME DAY...
I SWEAR...
SUPIII (ZZZ)
GUU (ZZZ)
GUU
HEH HEH HEH.
SUPYOOO (ZZZN)
OH? IS THAT RIGHT?
YES, IT IS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS DEMOLISHED HOTEL...
HO HO HO HO!

CHAPTER 68. I HATE THIS DATE - END

KIMIE (AND HUSBAND)'S ROOM

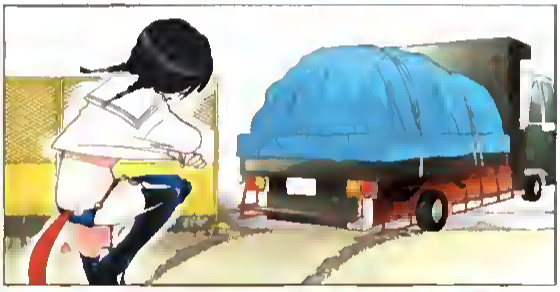
I'LL ANSWER ANY QUES-TIONS
LOSE THOSE PRUNES!
HORSEMEAT DIET
I SWEAR, THE GIRL CAN BE SO STUBBORN ABOUT SOME THINGS.
...SO SHE WENT BACK TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION.
BUT SHE SAID THAT VERSION 2 OF THE PEGASUS RAIMENT WAS TOO EASILY TAKEN OFF...
VER. 1
VER. 2
SHE'S STILL BUSY MAINTAINING PEACE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
NO, NOT AT ALL.
HA HA...
QUES-TION
DID THE CLASS REP GIVE UP ON THE WHOLE HORSE MASK THING?
GO TO THE NEXT PAGE!
OW!
YOU'RE LOSING YOUR EDGE!
AND YOU! GET BACK TO TRAINING!
WHERE'S THE REMOTE...
CHECK IT OUT!
IN FACT, STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE IS A SPECIAL SIDE STORY DESCRIBING SANAE'S EXPLOITS IN TOWN!

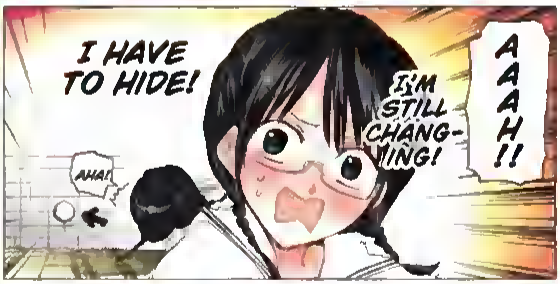
SPECIAL CHAPTER. SANAE 1/2

NORMALLY, SHE IS A PLAIN OLD TEENAGE STUDENT...
HER NAME IS SANAE NAKAJIMA.
KOSO (SNEAK)
...BUT AT TIMES, SHE TRANSFORMS TO BEAT DOWN EVIL!
HEY DAT HOIT! WATCH WHERE YA GOIN'!
KIRA (GLINT)
...AND DESIRES PEACE. THE AGENT OF JUSTICE...
SHE LOVES HER TOWN...
GUI (TUG)
FUSA (SWISH)
THE HEAV-ENLY WARRIOR ...
...HORSE MASK!!
BA (WHOOSH)

BURORORO (VRRRM)
ブーーーン

YAAA!!
SHUPA (LEAP)
ヒュバッ!!

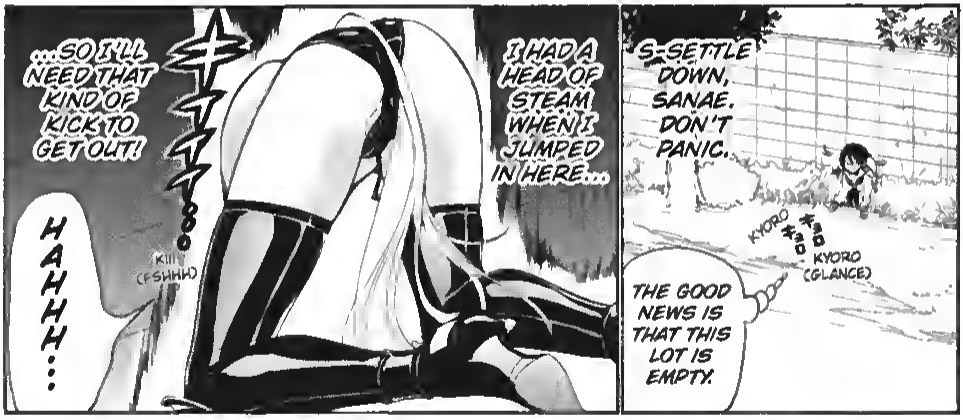



I HAVE TO HIDE!
I'M STILL CHANG-ING!
AAAH!!
AHA!

ZUPO (THUNK)
ズボッ!!

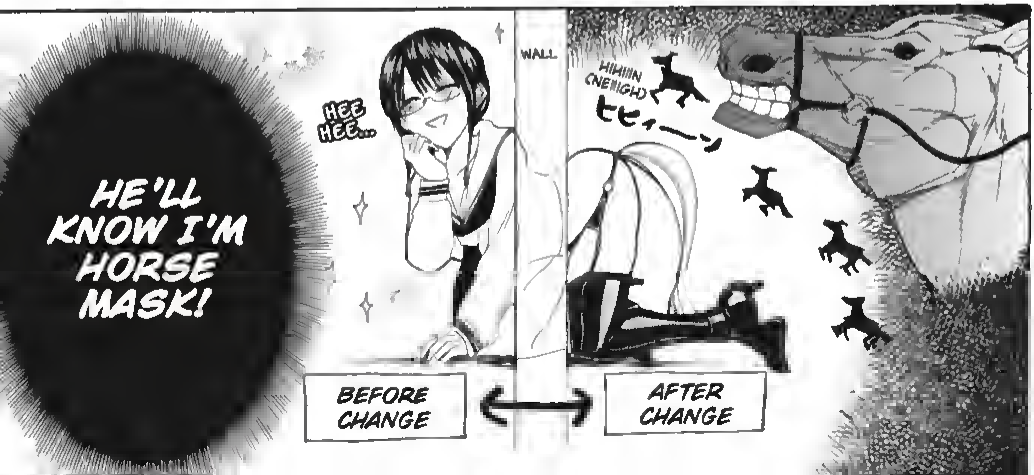
BUIII
(VRMMM)
.....
.....
GU!
(STRAIN)
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
GU
MMMM...
HNGGGH!
...MMMF...
GU!
(TUG)
MM!
MM!
.....
.....
SHIIIN
(SILENCE)

SFX. PURUPURU (TREMBLE)


...SO I'LL NEED THAT KIND OF KICK TO GET OUT!
HAHHH...
KIII (FSHHH)
I HAD A HEAD OF STEAM WHEN I JUMPED IN HERE...
S-SETTLE DOWN, SANAE. DON'T PANIC.
KYORO
KYORO (GLANCE)
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THIS LOT IS EMPTY.

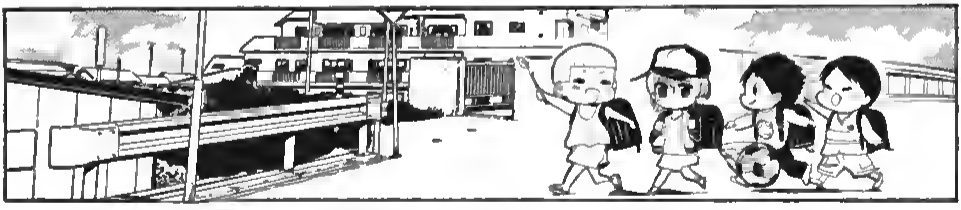
KOUSHI INUZUKA
FUTURE LEADER OF THE EASTERN ARMY
AND THE OBJECT OF SANAE'S AFFECTIONS
WEAK AT MARTIAL ARTS
HAS NO IDEA WHAT SANAE REALLY IS

PLUS, IF HE SEES MY LOWER HALF...
HE'LL KNOW I'M A MARTIAL ARTIST IF I DO.
WHAT-CAN WE DO!?
I CAN'T USE ANY TECH-NIQUES IN FRONT OF INU-ZUKA-KUN.
OH DEAR... OH DEAR...
JUST PICKING FLOWERS
HEE HEE



I CAN'T HAVE THAT!!
JUST SETTLE DOWN...
SETTLE DOWN... PRETEND EVERY-THING'S FINE WITH THE UPPER HALF!
BUT SOME-THING'S CLEARLY WRONG WITH MY LOWER HALF...
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES IT!!?
PURUPURU (SHIVER)
YIP! YIP!
WOOF! WOOF!
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
GOGOGOGOGO (RRRRUMBLE)
AAAAAHH!!
AAAAHH...
AAAAHH...

WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I GOING TO DOOOO!!??
HEE HEE...

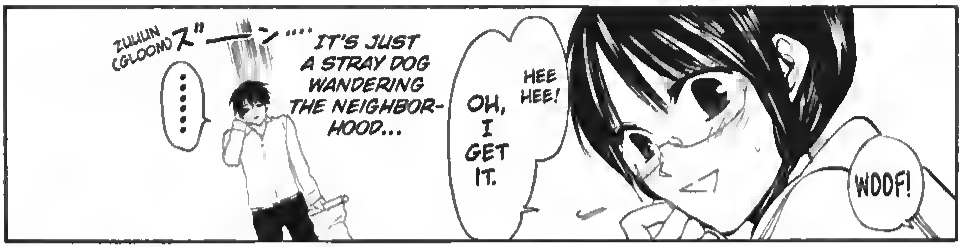


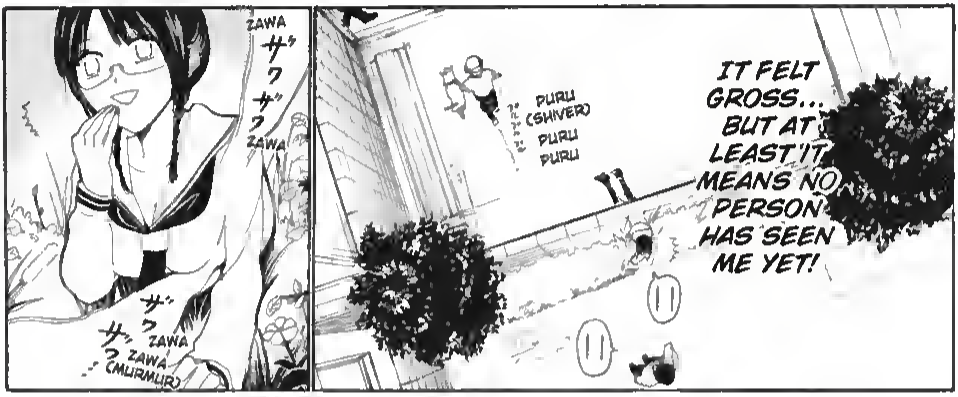
OH, BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE... HEE-HEE...
YEAH... IT'S KIND OF EMBAR-RASSING TO ADMIT, THOUGH.
...ARE YOU HERE TO PRACTICE YOUR MARTIAL ARTS?
SO, INUZUKA-KUN...

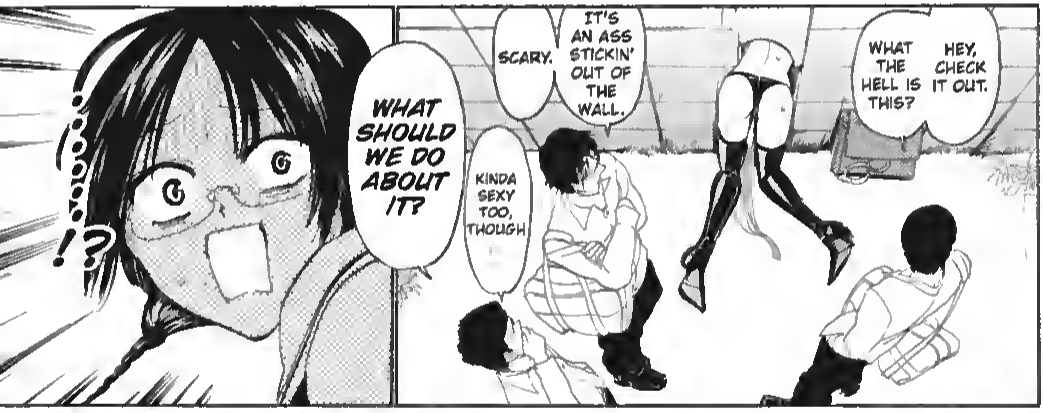
MAYBE I SHOULD STAY BACK.
OH, BUT... I'D THINK THAT TRAINING WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE UN-INITIATED...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MARTIAL ARTS...
DO YOU THINK I COULD WATCH?
YEAH, SURE.
THANK YOU!
WHEW...
OKAY.
JUST STAY THERE, THEN.
S-SURE...
ZA (ZSHH)
NOW HE WON'T REALIZE...
UH... OKAY.
SAFELY OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
I'LL BE HERE!
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
ハア (PANT) HAA
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
ハア HAA
...THAT I'M STUCK IN THE WALL...
.....
.....

WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
ZOWA (SHIVER)
ZOWA
BIKUN
AAAH!
PEROO (LICK)
BIKUN (TWITCH)
AHH...
AHHH!
...AND SLIPPERY AND WRIGGLY!
PICHA (SLURP)
PICHA
PICHA
IT FEELS SLIMY...
SFX: PICHA (LICK) PICHA
AHH...
BURU (SHIVER)
BURU
AHHH!
SFX: BIKUN (TWITCH) BIKUN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED, OKAY?
...BUT IT'S NOT DANGEROUS.
...I KNOW THIS IS "MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING" AND ALL...
ANYWAY, CLASS REP...

SFX: GATA (SHAKE) GATA


ZULULIN (GLOOM) ズ"ーン
.....
IT'S JUST A STRAY DOG WANDERING THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
OH, I GET IT.
HEE HEE!
WOOF!

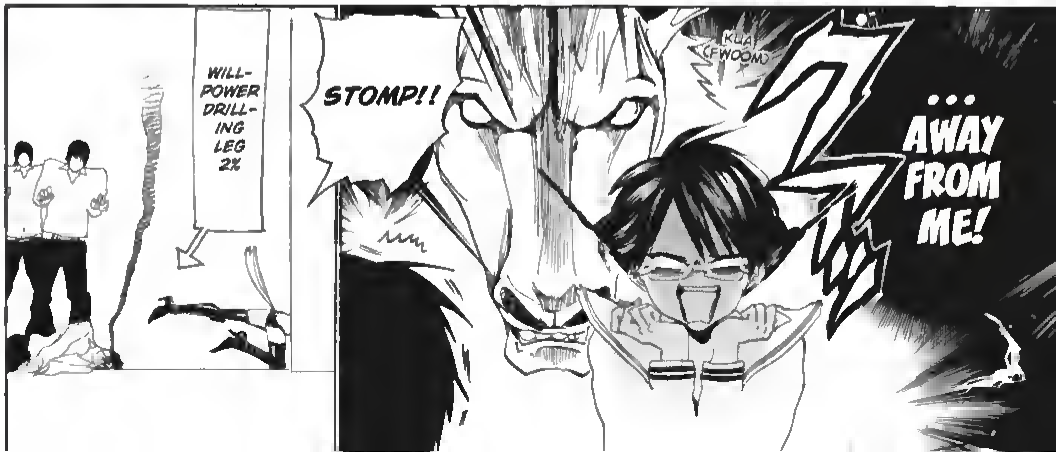

ZAWA ザワ ザワ ZAWA
ザワ ザワ ZAWA ZAWA (MURMUR)
PURU (SHIVER) PURU PURU
IT FELT GROSS... BUT AT LEAST IT MEANS NO PERSON HAS SEEN ME YET!


.....!?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?
SCARY.
IT'S AN ASS STICKIN' OUT OF THE WALL.
KINDA SEXY TOO, THOUGH
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
HEY, CHECK IT OUT.

...THEN WE'LL JUST OBLIGE ...
IS THIS WHAT SHE'S INTO?
WELL, IF IT'S WHAT SHE WANTS ...
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO ANSWER ...
BUT I CAN'T ANSWER !!
ARE THOSE A COUPLE OF MEN I HEAR TALKING ABOUT ME!?
OH NO! THIS TIME IT'S PEOPLE!
GA (GRAB)
カシッ

...BY TAKING IT OFF HER.
GUI (TUG)
グイッ
AAAAAAHH!!
GUI
グイ
GUI

AAAAAAHH!!
AAAAAAHH!!
AAAAAAHH!!
AAAAHH!
GET YOUR UGLY HIDE ...


KUA (FWOOM)
... AWAY FROM ME!
STOMP!!
WILL-POWER DRILL-ING LEG 2%

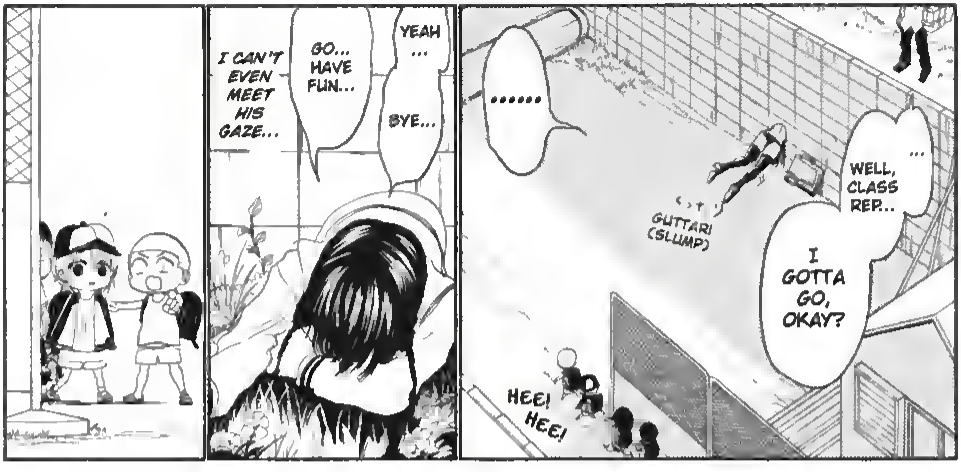
SFX: SOOO (SHHH)

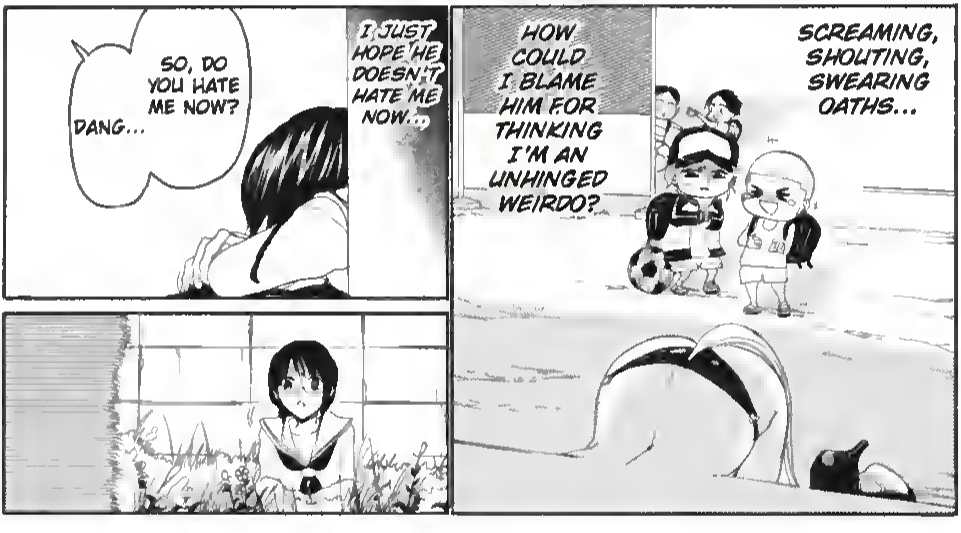
SFX: GAKU (SHAKE) GAKU

SFX. PIKU (TWITCH) PIKU

SFX. BURU (SHIVER) BURU BURU

NO!! I DO WANT TO GO WITH YOU!!!
WAIT, INUZUKA-KUUUN!!!
GUTTARI (SLUMP)
ぐったり
.....


I CAN'T EVEN MEET HIS GAZE...
GO... HAVE FUN...
YEAH...
BYE...
.....
GUTTARI (SLUMP)
WELL, CLASS REP...
...
I GOTTA GO, OKAY?
HEE! HEE!


SO, DO YOU HATE ME NOW?
DANG...
I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T HATE ME NOW...
HOW COULD I BLAME HIM FOR THINKING I'M AN UNHINGED WEIRDO?
SCREAMING, SHOUTING, SWEARING OATHS...

I FELT THE SAME WAY AT FIRST...
I DON'T BLAME YOU... I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE VIOLENCE.
HUH...?

ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO MARTIAL ARTS...
...ARE KINDA CRAZY, AREN'T THEY?

I KNOW HOW SENSIBLE AND NORMAL A PERSON YOU ARE...
...SO I UNDERSTAND IF YOU FEEL THIS WAY...
...BUT TO HEAR THAT YOU'D HATE ME BECAUSE OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN MARTIAL ARTS...
... WELL ...

WHAT IF INUZUKA-KUN FINDS OUT ABOUT MY MARTIAL ARTS?
WHAT IF HE DECIDES HE DOESN'T LIKE ME?

OH NO.
WHAT HAVE I DONE...?

...THAT WOULD HURT...

I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH WHAT HE FEELS ABOUT ME...
...THAT I NEVER NOTICED I COULD BE HURTING HIS FEELINGS INSTEAD!
.....
...NO...
HEH
NO, I WOULDN'T HATE YOU!!
NEVER!
I DON'T THINK IT'S WEIRD!
YOU'VE GOT A REASON ...
...?
I'VE ALWAYS HAD MY EYE ON YOU...
I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT...
...BUT IT'S TRUE THAT FROM WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU...
...I'VE BEEN MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU!
CLASS REP...
HEY TENCHI!
THANK YOU!
WELL, IN THAT CASE ...
IS IT OKAY...
INUZUKA-KUN...!!

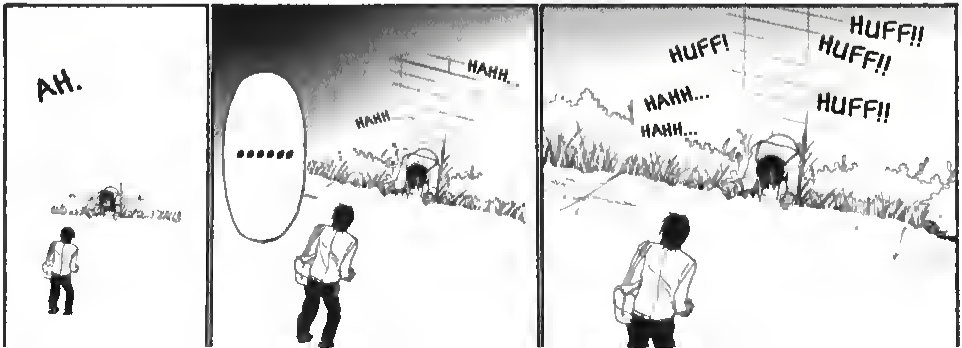
...IF WE'RE ...
...STILL FRIENDS?
OH, INU-ZUKA-KUN!
DON'T BE SILLY!
THE ANSWER IS...
...WITHOUT A DOUBT...
ZUMU (SHOVE)
KI!!

NOOOOOOO!!
NOOOOOOOOOO!!
GURI (GRIND)
グリグリグリ
GURI
GURI
AAAH!
BUN (VSHAKE)
BUN
BUN
BUN
BUN
NO!!

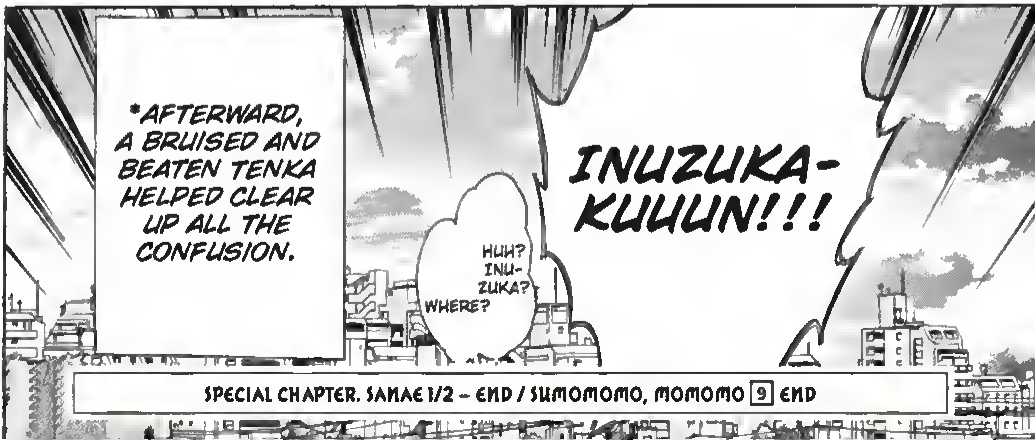
HEE-HEE! DUH-HUH-HUHI FUNNY PRANK!
TAKE THAT!
MUKAAAA (GRRRR)
IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IIIIIS !!?
"BOYS DO STUPID THINGS"!?
YOU CAN FIND FORGIVE-NESS IN YOUR HEART, RIGHT?
HEY, BOYS DO STUPID THINGS SOMETIMES!
HA-HA, SORRY! DID THAT HURT?
IS THAT YOU, CLASS REP!?
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING...

SFX: BIKU (TWITCH) BIKU BIKU

I HATE YOUUU !!!!
IN FACT, YOU KNOW WHAT !?
I'M COM-PLETELY FED UP WITH YOU!!!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO STUPID !?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? THINK OF YOUR AGE!!
L...
LET'S BE...
THIS ISN'T FUNNY !!
FRI-ENDS ?
... BE, UMM ...
LET'S ...



...CLASS REP
BYE-BYE...
.....
.....!!


*AFTERWARD, A BRUISED AND BEATEN TENKA HELPED CLEAR UP ALL THE CONFUSION.
INUZUKA-KUUUN!!!
HUH? INU-ZUKA? WHERE?

TRANSLATION NOTES

Sumomomo, Momomo is part of a well-known Japanese tongue twister which reads, "Sumomo mo momo mo momo no uchi," and roughly means, "Plums and peaches are part of the peach family."

Common Honorifics
No honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness. If used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would be an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-dono: A polite, formal honorific suffix.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.
onii-chon, aniki: Used to address one's older brother or brother figure.
nee-san, aneki: Used to address ones's older sister or sister figure. This "family" term is also used in yakuza organizations for higher-ranking female members.

Page 15
Minowa, Ushigome: In keeping with the Chinese zodiac pattern, the name "Minowa" contains the character for "sheep/ram," and the name "Ushigome" has the character for "ox."
The Minowa family's martial arts style, "***Anira Nyoirin Shiten-ryuu,***" is difficult to translate literally. "Anira" is the Heavenly General associated with the sheep, while "Nyoirin" is a title given to a manifestation of the Kannon Boddhisatva (Nyoirin Kannon) that holds the Cintamani Stone, a jewel that fulfills wishes, in one hand, and the chakra that symbolizes the path to enlightenment in another. "Shiten" could perhaps mean "pillar/branch of Heaven" or an abbreviation of Marishiten, a Buddhist goddess of victory in battle. The Ushigome style, "***Shotora Kounyo Kouchou-ryuu,***" refers to the Heavenly General Shotora (also spelled "Shatora") and means "Women Who Hook the Masses Into the Buddha's Enlightenment." Ironic, given that their outfits suggest the women of this clan are hostesses, who make a living by chatting with men who visit their nightclub and getting them to pay for expensive drinks.

Page 86
Chicken fight: This piggyback event is known as "kiba-sen" in Japanese, which literally means "horseback fight."

Page 112
Hijiki: A sea plant that grows on rocky shores in the Far East around Japan, Korea, and China. It is similar to other seaweed consumed in Japanese food like nori or wakame.

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO⑨

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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